Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-244
Tuesday
20 December 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-244 *20 December 1988*

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LD2012143488 [Editorial Report]

Sudan

An emergency committee chaired by Justice Minister Hasan al-Turabi declared Khartoum a "defensive emergency area" and directed security authorities to take measures to preserve the stability of the country, according to local press reports cited by SUNA 20 December.

The committee said the decision was in accordance with cabinet directives, and a ministerial source said the reasons for the declaration will be made known shortly.

MENA linked the announcement with reports that an attempted coup by "racist" elements was foiled the night of 18 December.

Israel

The Likud and the Alignment reached an agreement for the establishment of a broad-based government, Jerusalem radio announced.

The last obstacle in the negotiations was removed when the two sides agreed to allow an Alignment representative to chair the Knesset Finance Committee on condition that the nomination is approved by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The agreement also specifies that eight settlements will be set up in the government's first year, but each settlement after that will require the approval of the Finance Ministry, which will be headed by Shim'on Peres.

The guidelines of the new administration stipulate that there will be new elections if one of the two major partners decides to leave the coalition, HATZOFE reported.

Participation of other parties in the government is subject to the agreement of both the Likud and the Alignment.

On the Palestinian issue, the guidelines call for direct talks with a Palestinian delegation composed of leaders from the territories, but promise "aggressive action" to restore security.

The agreement with the Alignment must still be ratified by the Likud Central Committee, Jerusalem radio noted, adding that Shamir will return his mandate to the president if he does not receive the Central Committee's support.

Shamir will tell delegates that a broad-based government is needed to present a unified front against a Palestinian state and against a retreat to the 1967 borders.

However, the radio spoke of "growing" opposition to the agreement within the Likud, noting Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's warning that a broad-based government could lead to a Palestinian state.

A Jerusalem television report on the expected composition of the cabinet disclosed that Moshe Arens is expected to become foreign minister, while Sharon will retain his present post.

As for the minor parties, the radio said that Shas and Tehiya have decided to go into opposition, but the National Religious Party is expected to receive the religious affairs portfolio.

PLO Affairs

A commentary broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio urged U.S. authorities to pressure "the Zionist entity" to stop its "organized terrorism" against the Palestinian people, contending that the United States has the ability to apply "unlimited" pressure if it so wishes.

Until the United States curbs "the madness of Zionist terrorism," the Palestinians will have "every right to defend themselves" through escalating the uprising and all forms of "legitimate national struggle," the radio added.

In further comment on the recent U.S.-PLO meeting, PLO official Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh told Kuwait's AL-ANBA' that the PLO formed "no clear understanding of what the United States means by the word terrorism."

He also said the PLO has information that the Israeli intelligence service is planning to carry out terrorist operations in Europe to frame the PLO and divert attention from Israeli "crimes" in the occupied territories.

Following PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Vienna, WIENER ZEITUNG published a statement by the Austrian foreign minister announcing that the PLO representative in Vienna will be acknowledged as an "ambassador."

During his visit, 'Arafat told Vienna radio that he expects the Palestinians will achieve a state "within 2 years."

In another development, the Libyan paper AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR accused 'Arafat of committing "high treason" by recognizing Israel, TANJUG reported.

Jordan

King Husayn reshuffled his cabinet in decrees broadcast by Amman radio, appointing Marwan al-Qasim as foreign minister in place of Tahir al-Masri and Zuhayr Malhas as health minister in place of Zayd Hamzah.

Several other ministers exchanged portfolios.

New appointments were also announced for the Royal Hashemite Court, including that of Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir as chief of court and adviser to the king on military affairs.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah was appointed political adviser to the king and his former post of court minister was abolished.

Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talib will take over Zayd ibn Shakir's former duties as Armed Forces commander, Amman television noted.

GCC Summit in Bahrain

Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah addressed the ninth GCC summit in an inaugural speech broadcast by Manama television, expressing hope that the conference will advance cooperation and consolidate moves toward a completely "integrated economy" among the GCC states.

On foreign affairs, he said the summit will focus on the Iran-Iraq, Palestinian, and Lebanese issues.

The television also broadcast an arrival statement by Saudi King Fahd in which he noted that the summit is being held amid "favorable breakthroughs" in regional issues, notably the end of the Iran-Iraq war, the direct talks between the USSR and the Afghan mujahidin, and the start of a dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

A Tehran radio commentary indicated that Iran will favor a declaration by the GCC leaders on the need to implement UN Resolution 598, stating that this will be viewed in Tehran as a step toward bringing the GCC's views closer to those of Iran on the need to establish a real and lasting peace.

The radio also urged the GCC states to adopt a "unified policy" with respect to Iran, adding that this could lead to a "brighter future" for the stability and security of the Gulf region.

Afghanistan

The Soviet Union has started to withdraw civilian advisers from Afghanistan, according to Western diplomats in Islamabad cited by AFP.

Soviet sources confirmed that Soviet Embassy strength has been reduced to around 100 staff, AFP added.

Palestinian Affairs

Further Comment on PLO-U.S. Dialogue

U.S. 'Balanced Position' Urged

JN1712104888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Dec 88 pp 19, 24

[Text] Amman—'Abd al-Razzaq Al-Yahya, member of the PLO Executive Commitee and its representative in Jordan, has said the Executive Committee will hold a meeting soon to discuss the results of the UN General Assembly meeting and the U.S. step to hold a dialogue with the organization.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added that at its coming meeting the committee will assess the situation and draw up a plan for the Palestinian political move in the next stage based on the historic resolutions of the PNC session held in Algiers last month.

He said: We are serious about our move toward peace and we intend to achieve peace. No obstacle whatsoever will prevent us from attaining this noble goal.

He commented on the U.S. decision to hold a dialogue with the organization by saying: No doubt this decision is considered a positive step in the right direction. This important step should have begun long ago to save time and to make up for lost efforts and heavy losses.

He said: The United States is called upon to follow up on this positive step by adopting a balanced position toward the parties to the conflict based on complete real recognition of the organization coupled with adopting speedy practical measures on the ground to hold the international conference quickly.

Al-Yahya pointed out that the subjects of the dialogue should be in line with the new trend and the facts revealed recently in the positions of the concerned parties, particularly the clear, serious, and responsible Palestinian stand in comparison with the intransigent and irresponsible Israeli position.

He added: The U.S. step should form a qualitative leap ahead and a starting point in a real march toward peace. Palestinian policy, which has been characterized by courage and conformity backed by a unified Arab stand, had a direct effect on the change in the U.S. position. This is in addition to the stands of the friendly countries and world public opinion as well as the great uprising, which has returned matters to their correct course.

'Arafat Assesses Meeting

LD1812135688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat described the first U.S.-Palestinian meeting, which took place in Tunisia, as an important step in the right direction. He pointed out there has been agreement on holding other meetings in the near future.

He said that the United States shoulders great responsibilities regarding the prevalence of peace in the Middle East.

In a news conference he gave in Tunis yesterday, he stressed that Israel rejects peace and escalates its criminal hostility against the Palestinian people, and that the massacre perpetrated by the Israeli forces of occupation last Friday in the occupied land—which occurred just before the U.S.-Palestinian meeting and which resulted in the martyrdom of seven Palestinians—is the biggest proof of this Israeli policy. He described this policy as state terrorism, which Israel is still pursuing.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat said we should work so that 1989 will be a year of peace, because we feel the increased weight of the responsibility we shoulder. He added that the PLO is seriously working toward holding an international peace conference under UN auspices that would be attended by all parties concerned with the region's conflict and the UN Security Council permanent member-states.

'Arafat stressed the role West European countries could play in promoting the peace process. He pointed particularly to the statement made by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who emphasized the need to hold a preparatory conference at the ministerial level with the aim of holding such an international conference.

'Most Important Points' Noted

JN1812091688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 18 Dec (WAKH)— A Palestinian official revealed the most important points of discussion in the first session of dialogue held in Tunis between the PLO delegation headed by PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and the United States delegation headed by U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

In an interview with the newspaper, AL-KHALIJ, published here today, the Palestinian official said the Palestinian flag had been hoisted over the Palestinian delegation's table and the U.S. flag over the U.S. delegation's table.

After journalists, photographers, and Tunisian protocol officials left the conference hall in the guest house, a Tunisian Government building in the city of Carthage,

the U.S. ambassador began the talks by addressing the Palestinian delegation. He said: This meeting with you is taking place in your capacity as official representatives of the PLO.

In his speech, the ambassador referred to what could be considered recognition that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He then submitted the official U.S. stand in written form, which is the same stand announced by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz when he decided to start contacts with the PLO.

The ambassador stressed that dialogue was taking place to reach a peaceful settlement and that there must be direct negotiations with Israel. He then affirmed the United States' commitment to Israel's security and saying that this is something which is taken for granted.

Discussing the possibilities of a settlement, he said: The United States is convinced that the settlement requires a change in the Israeli Government's stand. During his talks the ambassador used the term President [Al-Ra'is] 'Arafat in reference to the PLO chairman.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh welcomed the Washington decision to start dialogue with the PLO. He affirmed the determination of the Palestinians in seeking a just peace. He concentrated on the fact that the framework of negotiations is the international conference.

He asked the United States to respond to the efforts to hold the preparatory meeting for the international conference. He asked the United States to put pressure on Israel to stop its terrorism in the occupied territories.

The dialogue took the form of an exchange of opinion. The U.S. ambassador concentrated on what he termed the topic of terrorism and said: It is necessary to implement some issues, the most important of which is the issue of terrorism.

'Abd Rabbuh affirmed the PLO's clear stand on denouncing terrorism. He also affirmed its right to struggle with all possible means against the Israeli occupation. He concentrated on the Israeli terrorist practices inside and outside the occupied territories. He gave examples such as the raid on the PLO headquarters in Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis, the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and the shelling of camps in Lebanon.

The ambassador repeated that his country does not approve of the repressive measures in the occupied territories saying it is opposed to terrorism in all its forms.

The ambassador was asked what the U.S. Administration's stand will be if Mosad committed terrorist acts and attempted to blame the Palestinians for them. He replied: U.S. organs can find out. 'Abd Rabbuh said he expected Israel to carry out terrorist operations some of whose objectives are to halt Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

To conclude the dialogue, the U.S. ambassador summed up his country's stand again and said: We must meet again before the new administration in Washington assumes power on 20 January.

'Abd Rabbuh on Meeting

JN1912203688 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Dec 88 pp 1, 30

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO delegation to the PLO-U.S. talks, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] What did the American side suggest and what were your answers?

['Abd Rabbuh] The American side presented its well-known position concerning direct negotiations. The United States does not rule out an international peace conference provided it leads to direct negotiations.

For our part, we asserted that we regard this Palestinian-American dialogue as a prelude to an international conference within whose framework negotiations would be conducted with the participation of all parties concerned; namely, the Arab confrontation states, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the PLO, and Israel.

The PLO practically rules out any separate, bilateral formula for a solution. The PLO holds it is possible now to begin a meeting of the international conference preparatory committee. The shape of this committee was defined by French President Francois Mitterrand last September and was supported by the European states and the USSR.

And since the other regional problems such as Namibia and Afghanistan required an international formula for solution, the Palestinian and Middle East issues are in greater need of such a formula because they are more complex and the interests of the Middle Eastern and international parties concerned are interconnected.

From our standpoint, we see a solution only through the international conference. This solution will be comprehensive and just and the international bodies, including the Security Council, can ensure its results.

[Al-Barqawi] How did you discuss terrorism this time?

['Abd Rabbuh] The American side repeated President Ronald Reagan's open assertions that any terrorist operation will threaten the continuation of this dialogue. We said our position on terrorism is clear; namely, what brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reiterated in his Geneva speech.

For our part, we believe the United States should address its threats to Israel to stop its organized state terrorism and its crimes that are being witnessed daily and in every home all over the world. Had Washington addressed its warning to Israel and threatened to end its ties with it if it does not stop terrorism, as the United States is doing with us now, the entire problem would be solved tomorrow.

The PLO warns that it possesses information that the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad, will carry out terrorist operations in some European states during the coming stage with the aim of framing the Palestinians and diverting world attention from the Israeli occupation forces' crimes against our people in the occupied territory and hampering the series of Palestinian political victories.

We hold the United States bears a responsibility in this regard and should bring effective pressure to bear on Israel to stop Israeli terrorism and condemn it.

This is the main yardstick for the seriousness of the U.S. position. Another yardstick is the White House's recognition of the Palestinian state and the U.S. recognition that the only suitable framework for negotiations is the international conference. We expect the next meeting to yield tangible answers. [Al-Barqawi] Have you attained a definition of the U.S. conception of terrorism?

['Abd Rabbuh] No, there is no clear understanding of what the United States means by the word terrorism. Our stand was clear, whether in the Cairo declaration or in the PNC resolutions or in the Geneva speech. We condemn terrorism, but we distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate struggle against occupation as was approved by the international community and the United Nations. We also reject any mixup between terrorism and legitimate struggle.

[Al-Barqawi] Accordingly, the U.S. side did not mention the uprising in this context?

['Abd Rabbuh] This did not happen at all. Naturally, we reject [regarding the uprising as terrorism]. In the meeting, we told the U.S. delegation that the uprising is not carried out by military or paramilitary groups but it is a movement carried out by an entire people. The region's history, and also the history of peoples' struggle, will record that the uprising is one of the most prominent popular revolutions in our modern age.

The uprising emphasizes that both peace and an independent state cannot be separated and that there will be no return to the former situation. Moreover, we find no path toward peace apart from the path of both an international conference and an independent state.

[Al-Barqawi] Following the meeting, you stated that it was genuine. When will the discussion of substantial issues begin?

['Abd Rabbuh] We agreed on resuming the dialogue in the next few weeks. The next round is expected to begin the tackling of substantial political issues.

[Al-Barqawi] What major issue will you raise?

['Abd Rabbuh] In our opinion, the major issue is the preparations to hold an international conference and the meeting of its preparatory committee. This is the mission of the dialogue as we view it in the coming phase.

[Al-Barqawi] It has been disseminated that the next meeting will be held at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis and that the following meeting will be held at the PLO's headquarters. Is this true?

['Abd Rabbuh] We did not discuss where, how, and when because what is important for us is the mission of the meeting.

[Al-Barqawi] This mission is the substantive dialogue. Hence, will the meeting be held after 20 January, the date for tranferring the White House authority to President George Bush's administration?

['Abd Rabbuh] We are prepared for a substantive dialogue at any moment. There are ones who say the next round of dialogue may begin after the new president assumes his duties at the White House. However, as President Reagan asserted, it is known that the president-elect had prior knowledge of and approved the initiation of dialogue with the PLO.

[Al-Barqawi] What about forming the provisional Palestinian government?

['Abd Rabbuh] The moment for forming the provisional goverment has actually approached, especially with the wide international recognition of the Palestinian state and the international community's realization of the realistic and peaceful political objectives of the PLO.

The formation of the government will represent another move in our struggle to promote the recognition of our rights and the justness of our cause and to impose further isolation on the extremist and anti-peace policy of the Tel Aviv rulers.

[Al-Barqawi] Will the government ask to be changed from an observer state to a full member of the United Nations?

['Abd Rabbuh] Palestine has taken its position as an observer state in the United Nations. Once the provisional government is formed, we will work toward changing our status to that of a full observer. This is a comprehensive operation.

The development of international support, the approach of holding the international conference, and the progress in the Arab countries' stand in supporting the Palestinian struggle march and its aims are all factors that strengthen the chances of reaching this objective.

[Al-Barqawi] Is there anything new in your relations with Syria?

['Abd Rabbuh] We are hoping we will soon start a Syrian-Palestinian dialogue to serve the objectives and mutual issues and to coordinate stands, especially when we are at the threshold of an international peace conference.

[Al-Barqawi] What were your feelings as you were leading the Palestinian delegation to the first meeting with a U.S. side?

['Abd Rabbuh] It was a deep feeling of national pride. Had it not been for the sacrifices and tortures of the courageous masses which have hoisted the uprising's banner every day, it would not have been possible to hold this meeting, which we consider an added victory offered by the courageous uprising. This uprising has and will continue to bang the walls of the reservoir as our great martyr author, Ghassan Kanafani, said.

There will come the day when the international conference will be held and we will see the Israelis sign the document of withdrawal from our blessed soil and independent state, just as the South African racists a couple of days ago signed the document of withdrawal from Namibia.

[Al-Barqawi] Could we say that new relations have started between the PLO and the White House?

['Abd Rabbuh] It is true that a limited step has been taken with the establishment of the dialogue between us. However, the next steps require U.S. political stands in the direction we discussed previously.

Vienna TV Interviews PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

AU1912223388 Vienna Television Service in German 2100 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by news moderator Robert Hochner on 19 December in Vienna—live; 'Arafat's answers in English with simultaneous German translation; passages in original English between slantlines]

[Text] [Hochner] Good evening, Mr 'Arafat. Mr 'Arafat, 5 years ago you had to leave Beirut under pressure from the Israeli army. At that time, many people said that now the PLO is dead, Yasir 'Arafat is dead. Did you then think 5 years later you would be able to proclaim this state, that it would be recognized by many states, and that the United States would talk directly to you?

['Arafat] /First of all, I did not leave Beirut because of the Israeli pressure,/ this enormous Israeli army with U.S. weapons did not conquer Beirut /in our presence./ I left Beirut because my brothers in Lebanon asked me to leave Lebanon.

They were subjected to /daily raids,/ it was simply hell—/bombings/ from the air, from the land, from the sea; 72,000 people were killed, /Lebanese and Palestinians./ I was asked to leave Lebanon, but not because of direct Israeli pressure. The Israelis did not manage that, they did not manage that, they did not conquer Beirut when I was there.

[Hochner] Nevertheless, my question is: At that moment, which many observers considered the low point of the PLO, did you believe that you would ever achieve something like the proclamation of the Palestinian state and the international recognition—meanwhile 87 states have recognized the Palestinian state? Did you doubt your plan, your dream at that moment?

['Arafat] /No, I was expecting it. Not to forget that when I left Beirut, before I left Beirut, I had this very important agreement with Philip Habib, the special envoy of the President of the United States of America, under the supervision of the United Nations/ and under the participation of international forces—Italian and French forces. If you remember, at that time we also had /the very important Arab conference in Fez,/ where /very important and very decisive Arab summit conference resolutions and Arab peace projects/ were adopted.

We also had a committee headed by King Hassan II with the goal of starting this initiative. /I am sorry that the U.S. Administration did not fulfill their promises./

[Hochner] We will talk about the Americans later.

['Arafat] /No, I am not speaking about... I am speaking about facts and realities./

[Hochner] Mr 'Arafat, last week at this famous press conference you renounced terrorism. Have you done this not only under massive U.S. pressure?

['Arafat] /I did not mean to renounce./ [as heard] Our resolution condemned all forms of terrorism—individual terrorism and state terrorism. Actually, I only repeated what our Palestinian National Council had accepted.

[Hochner] The Israelis say that this statement is not enough for them, because the PLO Charter still contains the destruction of the State of Israel. Would you not have to change your charter in order to have the Israelis accept this renunciation of terrorism?

['Arafat] /If you like to speak of our charter/ we have to speak of their flag. /You know the meaning of their flag?/ Two blue lines—this means the Euphrates and the Nile River—and in between the star of David. They have repeatedly stated /in their slogans and political documents that the land of Israel/ goes from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Before they ask us to change our charter, they should perhaps think of what they themselves use as slogans. /Today it has been declared/—by Prime Minister Shamir—that the national anthem says that the West Bank and also the East Bank of the Jordan River—that is, Jordan—belong to Israel. This you also have to keep in mind. If you want to talk about these old stories, we can discuss this for quite some time.

We say that we want /to go back implement peace/ at an international conference /without preconditions./

[Hochner] For this conference to take place, Israel has to agree to it. Now, former and future Prime Minister Shamir said today he does not want to talk to you, a murderer, as he said. How do you want to change this? How do you want to make the Israelis talk to you directly?

['Arafat] /Okay, this is easy. I am not going to/ talk to him alone. I said, let us hold an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

/This has been accepted by the Nonaligned Movement, the European countries, the socialist countries, by the Latin American countries, even by the U.S. Administration,/ at least during the talks between Gorbachev and Reagan—even twice, in Washington and Moscow.

[Hochner] Let us go back again to your distancing your organization from terrorism. There are leading PLO members who said that this is your private opinion. There is Syria, which does not support the proclamation of your state. Is it not possible that you are actually splitting the PLO?

['Arafat] /We are not speaking about... I am speaking about Palestinian groups and not about Arab intelligence services. I do not represent Arab intelligence services, I represent the PLO,/ whose chairman I am. I do not speak on behalf of all Arabs, I do not speak on behalf of some Syrians or others.

[Hochner] Does this mean that some recent attacks, which have also been ascribed to you, were the work of Arab intelligence services? Is that what you want to say?

['Arafat] /You can explain what you want to explain./ However, you cannot authentically interpret my statements. /In any case, it is clear and obvious that we are victims of Israeli state terrorism. I lost my deputy some months ago,/ who was murdered in Tunis. /And not to forget, they also tried to kill me/ in an air raid on my residence in Tunisia. How many PLO representatives have been killed by Mosad in Europe? How many people of our leadership have been killed by the Israelis—in Beirut, for instance, but also in Rome? Another person was killed in Cyprus, in Athens.

/I have a long list about what we have suffered from the Mosad./ And you know that /I am still now committed to what I said in Cairo in 1985/—that we do not intend to pay back the Israeli state terrorism against my people, against our children, against our women. What do you call the killing and butchering of women and children, the burning alive of people, /what do you call the crushing of the bones of our youth, what do you call the 3,400 miscarriages of women from the gas bombs? Is this not state terrorism?/

[Hochner] We now talk about the uprising in the occupied territories, the intifadah, which has been going on for 13 months. Has it not been this uprising that managed the breakthrough for your organization? Has the policy or the uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied territories with stones and Molotov cocktails not actually been more successful in 1 year than your organization has been with bombs and machineguns within 20 years?

['Arafat] /No, I think you are not specific, accurate in your questions./ There is simply no difference between my organization and my people. My people know that the leadership of the people is the PLO. There is no difference between my people and my organization. It is the Palestinian leadership which I represent—and, please, be fair.

[Hochner] Do you mean the uprising in the occupied territories is something that is controlled by the PLO, for which the PLO is fully responsible?

['Arafat] /Definitely. You remember, from the first moment/ it was not only we who said so. All communiques of the leaders in our occupied territories clearly say so. We are part of the PLO, they say, and we in the PLO are part of these people.

[Hochner] At the beginning you stated your standpoint and that of your organization on the declaration of not committing any terrorist acts in any form. Is this binding for the entire PLO, for all organizations? How are you going to behave toward Israel in the future?

['Arafat] /All organizations inside the PLO/ are bound by this, and this is not only my decision, this is a decision that was adopted by the Palestinian National Council at the last meeting in Algiers.

[Hochner] Does this mean the PLO will lay down its arms?

['Arafat] /How can we do so/ in view of the daily aggressions in southern Lebanon? During the last invasion 3,000 paratroopers from Israel invaded the area to the north of Sidon. They also used their naval forces, air force, and artillery. What do you expect from our people in the refugee camps in southern Lebanon—that they let themselves be butchered?

/We are facing daily aggression. But you must remember that in the intifadah I gave strict orders from the beginning to my people/ not to use any weapons and I am happy they have strictly followed this order. They were very disciplined. These orders were followed. /Not to forget, in other places/ where we are confronted with invasion, where /we are facing daily aggression from the airplanes, from the tanks, from the artillery, from the navy,/ we have to resist.

[Hochner] When the West Bank was still occupied by Jordan, you did not get this state. Syria does not recognize it.

['Arafat] /First of all, you cannot say there was Jordanian occupation./ This was no occupation by Jordan.

/No, no, again you are not specific enough. Our land never, never was under Arab occupation./ This was a region which was under the auspices, under the supervision of the Egyptian Government authorities. This also applied to the West Bank and the Golan Heights. These were regions that were under the auspices of the Arabs.

[Hochner] However, why did you not get the Palestinian state if the region was not occupied but only under Arab auspices?

['Arafat] /We were in the beginning of our/ revolution. We started in 1965 and you know that the occupation took place in 1967. However, during this time we already had had talks with our brothers. And you remember that /President al-Nasir had already accepted the idea in the beginning of the PLO,/ before I became chairman of the PLO. In the Gaza Strip, for instance, we already had our own first authorities.

[Hochner] You said today—we showed this film clip—that you believe that this state will come into being in less than 5 years. A few minutes ago you told one of my colleagues from the radio service that the state will exist in less than 2 years. What is it that makes you so optimistic that you will get land that is now occupied by one of the world's strongest armies, which has everything from tanks to planes to the nuclear bomb, that you will get this state?

['Arafat] /Okay, let us hear it. It is the strong power of the masses. Before the intifadah, we were only the vanguard of our people. But now, all our people, every child, every woman, every man is participating/ in this movement, this resistance movement against the occupants. /This means, the Israelis are facing/ all Palestinians in the occupied territories and outside, and they are resisting the Israeli occupation and want to get rid of it. This is true power, and therefore we are so optimistic.

[Hochner] Mr 'Arafat, in conclusion, one question that has nothing to do with politics. The people actually only know 'Arafat, the politician. Our audience cannot see that we are doing this interview while being besieged by security men. People say about you that for security reasons you do not sleep in the same bed twice in a row. How does one live as a target?

['Arafat] /Not to forget, it is not only 'Arafat./ There is the decision of Shamir and the Israeli leadership. Mosad has been ordered to persecute all Palestinian leaders. /The same is done against our children. Our children are targets. Not only me./ There is no difference between myself and a small child, like the one who was killed in Nabulus today. This is one and the same. This small child or me, we are all targets.

[Hochner] I thank you for this interview and I would like to wish you, and also the Israelis, what in Hebrew is called shalom and sounds similar in Arabic, namely sala'am—that is, peace. Thank you very much for coming.

['Arafat] /Peace for all of us, for our people, for the Palestinians, for the Arabs, and for the Israeli people, and also for the whole area./

[Hochner] Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

PLO's 'Arafat Sees New State in 2 Years

AU2012102288 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0600 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by ORF correspondent Michael Kerbler in Vienna on 19 December—recorded; 'Arafat's answers in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Kerbler] Mr 'Arafat, 87 nations have recognized the Palestinian state. When will the PLO nominate a government-in-exile?

['Arafat] The Palestinian National Council made a decision that this government will consist of people from the occupied territories and outside these territories. We are studying the reactions that will and may come from the

Israeli side and how Israel will possibly react to the names that will be announced, because some of our people live in the occupied territories. How will the Israeli Government then treat these people? Will they expel, imprison, or detain them? These are the questions we are currently studying and that we must clarify.

[Kerbler] You were asked how long it will take until a Palestinian state will be realized and you said it will take less than 5 years. Could you formulate your answer a bit more precisely?

['Arafat] Well, I think we will have it within 2 years, maybe a bit less.

[Kerbler] Israeli Prime Minister-designate Shamir has again refused to negotiate with PLO representatives. Labor Party chief Peres seems to be more accommodating regarding a dialogue with Palestinians. Under these circumstances, how do you intend to bring Israel to the negotiating table and to pave the way for peace in the Middle East?

['Arafat] Via the international community, through international pressure, through the UN Security Council, through the preparatory committee of the five permanent Security Council members, and with the help of our friends throughout the world. The vote in Geneva 2 days ago has shown that 138 countries have accepted an international peace conference, including some European countries.

[Kerbler] As long as there is the intifadah, the uprising, in the occupied territories, Israel's rightist parties, the Likud Party, will say that 'Arafat only talks about peace but look at the acts of violence that are committed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It all is just propaganda.

['Arafat] Do you believe that a strike means violence—if people defend themselves by throwing stones against Israel's highly sophisticated weapons, against tanks, helicopters, rubber bullets, tear gas grenades? Our people are confronted with violence. Let us not forget that we have entered the 2d year of the intifadah; we are in the 1st month of the 2d year of this uprising, and our people follow the instructions we have given them in an absolutely wonderful way.

We told them that they should not use weapons and they did what we told them. But do not forget that we could use weapons; however, we instructed them not to to so. According to the UN Charter, everyone, every individual has the right of resistance. You only need to remember the Nazi occupation of Europe, or Algerian resistance to the French occupation power, or African countries' resistance to French, British, or Portuguese occupation. In a word, we, too, have the right to offer resistance.

[Kerbler] Do you expect the United States now to exert more pressure on Israel to bring it to the negotiating table and to withdraw its troops from the occupied territories?

['Arafat] We are expecting international protection for our people. As you know, we are confronted with massacres every day. On the very day when the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue began, the Israelis started their escalation. In the massacres in Nabulus, for instance, 9 persons were killed and 128 people were injured in 1 day.

Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday he has ordered the army not to relax their combat morale and discipline. What does that mean? It means he gave orders to kill. That surely is a disgrace. How can anyone accept that? Does that represent a civilized position?

The Israelis have clearly given orders to kill children and women. There were 3,200 miscarriages, 550 people dead, 19,000 injured, including 4,700 cripples; 28,000 people were locked up in camps, houses were blown up, olive trees from the time of the Romans were destroyed. In addition, attacks on Christian and Muslim sanctuaries are being continued. Should international public opinion keep silent? That is the point. I am addressing the international public: In view of these continuing crimes it must not keep silent. [Kerbler] (Mustafa al-Sibri), a PLO Executive Committee member, said yesterday that the statements you made prior to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue were your very personal opinion. Is there a uniform opinion within the PLO?

['Arafat] We have democratic habits and we are proud of our democracy. Everybody can say what he likes. However, clear decisions were made in the Executive Committee and in the Palestinian National Council.

[Kerbler] Is there unity in the PLO? Can you speak for all Palestinians?

['Arafat] Of course I can. But do you have full unanimity and full agreement here in Austria? The outcome of the last vote in the Palestinian National Council was 253 votes in favor and 47 votes against. What does that mean? It means a majority of 83 percent. However, I would not have needed more than 51 percent.

[Kerbler] However, you just cannot ignore the fact that this democratic vote is in jeopardy if just one PLO member takes up arms.

['Arafat] We cannot give up resistance. Just look at what is going on in southern Lebanon. We are confronted with aggression and attacks every day. Last week, for instance, 3,000 paratroopers raided our refugee camps north of Sidon. We offered resistance and we have a right of resistance. Do you believe we should keep silent in view of the invasion and air raids? We will continue to defend ourselves. The intifadah in the occupied territories is part of this resistance.

Khalaf Says Anti-Israel Attacks To Continue

JN1812065288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] PLO second in command Salah Khalaf, known as Abu Iyad, has stated that the PLO does not intend to abandon attacks on military targets in Israel. He indicated that Yasir 'Arafat's declaration of relinquishment of terrorism has nothing to do with military operations.

Abu Iyad added: If President Reagan thinks we will stop attacks on military targets, then I will tell him to stop the dialogue right now. He continued: Our uprising will not stop until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem.

Salah Khalaf expected Israel to try to torpedo the dialogue begun by the Americans and Palestinians in Tunis in three possible ways: A military operation against Lebanon which might extend as far as Syria; intensification of measures against the uprising, particularly expulsions; or the assassination of leading PLO figures.

It will be recalled that yesterday 20 Palestinians were shot and wounded by the Israeli army in the occupied territories, where merchants declared a 3-day strike to mourn the killing of 7 Palestinians in Nabulus on Friday.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on Terrorism, George Bush

JN1912073088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has said that it is high time for the United States to talk to Israel and not the Palestinians about the state terrorism it is continuously practicing.

The Palestinian official said U.S. President-elect George Bush, unlike the previous U.S. presidents, possesses the necessary means to direct the march of peace in the Middle East. He stressed that the proposed international conference is the only viable framework to settle the conflict over the occupied territories.

PLO, PFLP, DFLP Security Organs May Merge

NC1912183088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The Italian newspaper IL MESSAGERO published a report today in which it quoted Arab sources in Tunisia as saying that the PFLP and the DFLP have decided to merge their security organs with the PLO's central security apparatus which is led by Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad.

The newspaper added that a new security apparatus has been formed to guard against possible armed operations against PLO leaders in the wake of the beginning of dialogue with the United States.

Soviet-Palestinian Meeting Held in Amman

JN1812203188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Amman, 18 DEC (INA)—A PNC delegation headed by its speaker, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, met in Amman today with a Soviet delegation headed by Rafik Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presedium and first secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, currently visiting Jordan.

Palestinian sources here told INA correspondent that Shaykh al-Sa'ih pointed out during the meeting that the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories is continuing until the national independence is achieved despite all the oppressive and brutal practices perpetrated by the occupation authorities, which are suffering from failure and international isolation.

Al-Sa'ih praised Palestinian-Soviet relations and paid tribute to the Soviet support for the Palestinian national struggle and its backing of the new Palestinian steps aimed at expediting the achievement of a genuine peace in the region and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and establish their independent state on their soil.

The Palestinian sources added that Shaykh al-Sa'ih called for convening an international conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO on equal footing.

The PNC speaker praised the U.S. move to open dialogue with the PLO, expressing the hope this move will be the beginning of a more balanced U.S. stand vis-a-vis the region's conflict.

He also praised the distinguished relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. The future relations will be even stronger and firmer, he said.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that Rafik Nishanov stressed the Soviet Union's support for the PNC resolutions and the initiative presented by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his speech in Geneva.

He said that moving the UN General Assembly's session to Geneva and the start of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue emphasize that the United States can neither continue imposing its will on the international scene nor make peace alone and that the will of peoples will eventually triumph.

U.S. Urged To Stop Israeli 'Mad Terrorism'

JN2012083088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1933 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Political commentary: "The Most Prominent Condition for Peace Is That the Americans Curb the Mad Zionist Terrorism"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation: While the PLO and the entire world welcomed the new U.S. step, which constitutes an important turning point in the U.S. policy

toward the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question, the Zionist entity was making explicit attempts to sabotage the horizons of the desired peace, through the escalation of terrorism, violence, and mad rancor against our steadfast heroic people on our Palestinian land.

The Zionist sabotage attempts were not confined to the terrible bloody massacres that the Zionists carried out in the steadfast heroic city of Nabulus or to the bloody blockades that the Zionists still impose against our valiant kinfolk in the towns, villages, and camps of Gaza. They went beyond that, with the leaders of the Zionist entity feverishly making flagrant statements and threats to repeat these massacres and these chapters of black terrorism and mad violence against our people, generations, women, and children throughout our Palestinian land.

There is no better proof than this that the Zionist entity is determined to sabotage the peace efforts by all the force of its terrorism and means of oppression, violence, steel, and fire. It is the same policy that is continuously adopted by the leaders of this Zionist entity, throwing overboard the logic of the international community and showing disdain for the universal consensus on the justness of the Palestinian right and the need to achieve Palestinan independence.

However, everybody knows that the Zionist entity is not a body isolated from the universe. Indeed, it depends on the United States for its life, existence, and the constituents of its continuation. It depends on the U.S. bias toward and unlimited support for it. Consequently, the United States can always curb the Zionist entity's mad terrorism. Its ability to apply pressure on this entity, if it really wants to, is unlimited.

This particular issue constitutes the main test for the U.S. intentions and its new policy, which everyone welcomed and encouraged, including the PLO itself, especially since the United States reiterates, day and night, and through all members of its administration, its desire to stop and renounce terrorism.

The United States should exert extraordinary and convincing efforts to apply true pressure on the Zionist entity to stop this organized terrorism, the official state terrorism, the open and explicit terrorism practiced by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people in broad daylight and before everyone.

Until this is done, until the intentions are crystallized practically, and until the United States curbs the madness of the Zionist terrorism, our heroic Palestinian people, under the PLO, will have every right to defend themselves, their existence, rights, and destiny through the continuation and escalation of the blessed uprising and through stepping up all forms of their legitimate national struggle.

In this context, the international community, which warmly welcomed the Palestinian resolutions and initiatives and the new U.S. move, and which brought about all this international unanimity for peace, is called upon to continue efforts and action toward achieving progress in the peace march through expediting the convening of the international conference and through making efforts to surmount obstacles and dwarf all sabotage attempts by the leaders of the Zionist entity.

Also in this context, the Arab brothers in all their countries and peoples are called upon to intensify efforts to push the United States toward achieving real progress toward peace, the peace of the courageous, as described by brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] when he addressed the world from the rostrum of the United Nations.

Greetings to our great struggling people and greetings to our blessed uprising. Revolution until victory.

'Arafat Opponents To Form New PLO Leadership

NC1812064788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with the PNSF leaders in Damascus yesterday. They discussed the current developments in the Palestinian arena.

A spokesman for the Fatah Uprising in Damascus has said that 'Arafat's opponents will form a new PLO leadership, adding that the new leaders will honor the Palestinian National Charter and continue the armed struggle against Israel.

Algeria

New FLN Central Committee Executive Secretaries

LD1912200288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The [FLN] Central Committee Secretariat met today under the chairmanship of Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Central Committee. The meeting decided to appoint the following executive secretaries of the Central Committee:

Salah Goudjil: General organization.
Abderrezak Bouhara: Popular organization and development.
Hachemi Hadjres: Information and contact.
Mohamed Saidi: Training and culture.
Mouloud Kassim Nait Belkacem: Education, Arabic language, and its promotion.
Abdelkarim Souissi: Youth.
Boualem Dellouci: International relations.

'Popular Symbolic Trial of Torture' Upcoming

NC1712190288 Paris AFP in English 1820 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers, Dec 17 (AFP)—Unofficial groups have combined to organise a "popular symbolic trial of torture in Algeria since 1962" to be held in Algiers on December 29.

The groups, combined in an umbrella "committee for national mobilisation against torture", include about 40 local committees and professional organisations formed in the wake of last October's civil disturbances which left hundreds of people dead.

A spokesman for the committee said that "the practice of torture has been systematic in Algeria since 1962".

Several cases of torture were reported during the week-long disturbances in early October in which students a. d young people throughout Algeria clashed with police and security forces.

A petition drawn up in October protesting against the practice of torture received 35,000 signatures.

The "popular trial" will be conducted by a collective of lawyers in Algiers who will also draw up the indictment.

A march against torture was held on the student campus of Bab-Ezzouar, near Algiers, on November 24.

The Algerian League of Human Rights, which is not recognised by the Algerian authorities, held an exhibition earlier this week presenting documents relating to torture and showed a video film made by the human rights organisation Amnesty International.

Egypt

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1812164988 Cairo MENA in English 1640 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, Dec 18—(MENA)—Ethiopian Prime Minister Wogderess Fikre-Selassie arrived here tonight from Khartoum on a three-day visit during which he will convey a message from President Mengistu Haile Mariam to President Husni Mubarak.

Received by Mubarak

NC2012090988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Ethiopian Prime Minister Wogderess Fikre-Selassie and the accompanying delegation at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Eng 'Isam Radi, works and water resources minister and head of the team escorting the Ethiopian guest.

Discusses Talks With Mubarak

NC2012114088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, in which the latter renewed his invitation to President Mubarak to visit Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Wogderess Fikre-Selassie disclosed this following his meeting with President Mubarak today. He revealed that his discussion with his excellency focused on developments toward peace in the region and in the Horn of Africa, the result of the dialogue with the brothers in Sudan to establish peace in the region, the present domestic problems facing Ethiopia, and the possibility of establishing peace and restoring security, peace, and stability to the area. He added that the discussions also dealt with the means of improving relations with the Arab countries. He said that President Mengistu's message referred to all these points.

Regarding economic cooperation, the Ethiopian prime minister said that the two countries had formed a joined committee, which will meet in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 February. He pointed out that there is wide scope for cooperation between the two countries.

He also disclosed his talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi were aimed at strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation. The Ethiopian prime minister noted that the two countries have a true desire to cooperate, stressing that both sides have agreed to continue their efforts in that direction.

Regarding the issue of the Nile River waters, Fikre-Selassie said that he and President Mubarak did not hold an in-depth discussion of this matter because it falls within the purview of the mission of the delegation that has arrived in Egypt for a dialogue on this issue. He added that then everybody will benefit from the Nile waters if peace is established in Ethiopia. He added that the countries concurred will continue to fully benefit from the Nile waters.

Regarding Ethiopian-Sudanese relations, particularly the problem of southern Sudan, the Ethiopian prime minister said that a dialogue was held with the Sudanese on this issue and that Ethiopia has exerted efforts and pressure on the Garang Movement to contact the Sudanese under the pretext of Sudan's territorial integrity.

He referred to the constitutional conference that will be held in Sudan soon and expressed his belief that the results will be positive if the Sudanese parties make positive decisions.

Spanish Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement
NC2012063688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2318 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Fernandez-Ordonez will lead Spain's delegation to the meetings of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Spanish Committee that will begin at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow, Tuesday.

The Spanish foreign minister said on arrival that strong and unique relations bind Egypt and Spain and that his country is one of Egypt's best friends and vice versa. He added that the European group meeting in Brussels discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and decided that Spain should contact all the parties concerned with the conflict in the region in order to reach a collective decision on the Palestinian issue. He said that Spain was chosen for this mission because it will take over the Presidency of the European Community on 1 January 1989.

The Spanish foreign minister noted that he met with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis in November, but added that the Spanish Goverment has not yet decided on the nature of the relationship it will establish with the Palestinian state that has been proclaimed. He said that the nature of this relationship will be decided by the upcoming consultations with the parties concerned with the problem. [passage omitted]

MENA: Japan Agrees To Reschedule Debts
NC1812164488 Cairo MENA in English 1619 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, Dec 18 (MENA)—Japan agreed to reschedule Egyptian due debts. A letter to this effect was signed by First Undersecretary of International Cooperation 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahawi and the Japanese ambassador here.

The letter includes the Egyptian and Japanese Governments agreement on bases of rescheduling debts due to the Japanese Government and organisations within the agreement of the Paris Club signed in May last year.

Egypt has thus completed all agreements of rescheduling debts signed by Paris Club agreement.

African Development Bank Extends Loan
NC1912194688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and the African Development Bank have signed an agreement by which the bank is to extend a long-term loan of $271 million to Egypt. The loan is to be paid over 15 years following a 5-year grace period, with an annual interest of about 7.46 percent.

Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the agreement for Egypt, and African Development Bank President Babacar N'diaye, who arrived in Cairo on Sunday, signed for his organization.

The loan will be used to finance the expansion of the Western Cairo Power Plant. [passage omitted]

Ghali Returns, Discusses Franco-African Summit
NC1712212988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening after chairing the Afro-French summit in Casablanca as the representative of President Husni Mubarak. He said that the conference discussed a number of important issues, foremost of which were the developments in the Palestinian issue, South Africa, and foreign debts.

Ghali stressed the importance of Afro-Arab cooperation and its promotion. He noted that agreement was reached to convene a meeting of the Francophone foreign ministers in the middle of 1989 to examine the resolutions that have been passed and to prepare for the forthcoming summit scheduled to convene in France next year.

Ghali said that during his stopover in Rome, he delivered a message to Pope John Paul from President Husni Mubarak dealing with developments in the Middle East, Lebanon, and South Africa. He pointed out that he held talks with the Vatican prime minister [as heard] and secretary of state on the situation in the Middle East and on bilateral ties.

Experts To Discuss Labor Problems With Libya

NC1712165288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that a meeting on the expert level will be held between the Egyptian and Libyan sides in Geneva next Tuesday and Wednesday [20-21 December] to discuss the financial claims of Egyptians who were working in Libya. The meeting, 'Abd al-Majid said, will be sponsored by ILO Director General Francis Blanchard.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid met Blanchard during his stay in the Swiss capital and discussed the same issue. The two men agreed that the meeting between Egyptian and Libyan experts should start to resolve this problem.

Delineation of Tabah Border With Israel Begun

NC1912172788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—The Tabah Border markers, particularly the marker near Rafah, began to be placed today in accordance with the International Arbitration Panel's ruling on the dispute between Egypt and Israel.

Observers from the Multinational Forces in the Sinai attended the border delineation.

The placing of markers involved a delineation of 14 border points, beginning with border point 7 close to Rafah in the north and ending with border point 91 in Tabah.

All border markers are scheduled to be in place by 6 January 1989. A decision to this effect was made at the meeting held in Al-Jurah in the Sinai between representatives from the military survey departments in both countries and under the supervision of the liaison committee.

Northern border markers, from marker 7 up to marker 46, will be placed between today and 23 December; markers 51 to 86 will be placed from 27 to 30 December; and southern border markers, including marker 91 at Tabah, will be placed between 2 and 5 January 1989.

PNC Speaker Al-Sa'ih Arrives in Cairo

NC1912172888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1542 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih arrived in Cairo from the Jordanian capital this evening on a visit to Egypt that will last several days.

During his visit, Shaykh al-Sa'ih will attend the Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque Conference, which has been organized by the Muslim Youth Society and which is due to begin tomorrow, Tuesday. The conference will last for 3 days.

Murderer of Policeman Killed in Shootout

NC1912220988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2202 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Fugitive Sharif Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif, who is accused of killing Police Officer Lieutenant Colonel 'Isam al-Din Shams, was killed in a shootout with the police this evening.

Libya

Official Paper Accuses 'Arafat of 'High Treason'

LD1912173488 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1613 GMT 19 Dec 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 19 (TANJUG)—Libya today officially attacked Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat for recognising the Israeli state.

Libya considers that 'Arafat is guilty of "high treason which the Arab community will not forgive him."

The official organ of the Libyan leadership, THE GREEN MARCH, today frontpages an editorial warning that all those embarking on the road of "negotiation, peace-making and recognition of the enemy" are to pay the highest price and share the fate of their predecessors, "the Zionist and imperialist agents."

In this connection, THE GREEN MARCH quotes the physical liquidation of former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, leader of the Lebanese Falang Bashir al-Jumayyil and south Lebanese Christian militia leader Haddad.

The recognition of Israel, the organ of the Libyan Revolutionary Committees writes, means the negation of all the sacrifices made by the Palestinian people so far, but also the beginning of the end of the protagonists of this "shameful betrayal."

No one has the right to "liquidate the whole Palestinian cause" in the name of the Arab and Palestinian people, the newspaper adds.

THE GREEN MARCH points out that no one, including Yasir 'Arafat, has been able to turn a defeat on the field of battle into a victory at the conference table.

The only way to realise Palestinian rights is through armed struggle until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, but not the state on which the PLO leadership is beginning to negotiate with the United States in Tunisia while recognising Israel's legitimity of existence and its usurpation of a part of Palestine, THE GREEN MARCH concludes.

Somali President Arrives for Official Visit

Welcomed by Al-Qadhdhafi

EA1812211288 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Somali President Comrade Muhammad Siad Barre and his delegation arrived in Tripoli, Libya, at 1600 after attending the 15th summit of the African Francophone countries. They were warmly received by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, government officials, foreign diplomats in Libya, Somali diplomats in Tripoli, and civilians. [passage omitted]

Speaking to journalists at Tripoli airport, Siad Barre said his visit is in response to an invitation from Al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted] The delegation led by the SDR president includes Muhammad Ali Hamud, minister of state for foreign affairs, and other officials. [passage omitted]

Begins Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1812212588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Excerpt] In Tripoli this evening, the brother leader of the revolution and President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the fraternal Republic of Somalia, attended the opening session of the Arab Libyan-Somali talks. [passage omitted]

Honored With Banquet Speech

LD1912113388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution yesterday held a banquet in honor of President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of fraternal Somalia, and the accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by a number of members of the General People's Committee, and members and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother leader of the revolution made a speech, in which he welcomed President Siad Barre, and expressed the hope that the fraternal visit will lead to a new page in bilateral relations. The brother leader expressed his regrets for the difficult period witnessed by fraternal relations, recalling there was no cooperation for some time.

He said: We consider that a page of an inauspicious past has been closed, and a new leaf has been turned; this is due to your visit to your second country. If there is one thing in this connection I can say in favor of the masses of the people's congresses and people's committees, the ones who have the sovereignty in the Jamahiriyah, it is the fact that the al-Fatih revolution has extended a helping hand to you from the beginning of your revolution. The Libyan Arab people were generous in helping their brothers in Somalia.

We had great respect for the historic and brave revolution you and a complete Somalian generation adopted, specifying that Somalia belongs to the Arab nation, and that Somalia must be restored to the Arab fold. It showed a deep understanding of Somalian Arab history. This action was admired by the whole Arab nation, and by taking it you strengthened your nation.

However, the bad circumstances which surrounded the Somali revolution, and the exploitation by foreign powers, who wanted to tear apart the Arab homeland and subjugate it, led to negative reflections on our relations. It is well known that after the Berbera Treaty with the United States we were not able to proceed with our relations of alliance, revolution, and fraternity because it opened the way for the imperialist powers to control and subjugate a dear part of the Arab homeland, a sensitive area, which is the Horn of Africa. We are struggling to rid the Arab homeland of foreign control and to remove the shadow of neocolonialism.

Our assessment of the situation was that despite the difficult circumstances you face, the Berbera Treaty with the United States contradicts the revolutionary and unifying tendencies of us all. We shouldered our responsibilities bravely; we entered alliances against you, and we supported with all power the revolutionary movements which presented themselves to us as working for the abrogation of the Berbera Treaty and for removing U.S. control from the Horn of Africa, and we supplied them with aid. Great problems and huge losses occurred in that area, which we regret.

However, when we realized that there was a conspiracy against the unity, Arab identity, and Islamic character of Somalia, we adopted a decision—in the same way we decided to fight the situation in Somalia—not to fight the Somali regime, and to stop any aid to these movements. This was when we realised that there was an attempt to divide Somalia into a northern state and a southern state.

He said: We realized that whatever the identity of these movements, they never deviate from the attempt to tear apart the Arab Homeland, and therefore they were a part of a conspiracy against the unity of the Arab soil. We have always called for the unity of this soil and for removing the regional and divisory regimes.

There is no doubt that Somalia was exposed to grave conspiracies and numerous confrontations with various powers. Even if the starting points of these powers were different, they agreed on the aim—to divide Somalia.

We discovered that there is a conspiracy to impose dividing operations in the Horn of Africa and around it, which was imposed on Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and all the region.

The brother leader added: Therefore, we decided to stop any aid to the political and revolutionary movements in that region in order to preserve the unity of the Arab soil, the unity of Somalia, the unity of Sudan, and also the unity of Ethiopia. We consider that the weapon of division in that region is double-edged, because of its tribal, ethnic, and sectarian base. We hope that these policies, which will harm even those who employ them, will stop.

The brother leader of the revolution pointed out that we discovered that imperialism exploits these interventions to find a foothold in this sensitive region. This issue before the people's congresses, which have authority with regard to giving assistance to our Arab people in Somalia, and fighting with it against division and foreign conspiracies in order to strengthen it, so that it can do without the dwindling aid from the hostile forces, particularly imperialist forces, which take with the left hand what they give with the right, and which exploit this aid to impose their control and hegemony on the world.

The brother leader also said [word indistinct] we are a willing opponent against imperialism and its policies, and we must stand by the side of our Arab people in Somalia to protect its territorial integrity, its Arabism, and its Islam, and we call on all the states of the region not to give any opportunity to the imperialist forces through these regional conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

The brother leader affirmed that the Horn of Africa is an Arab region, and we reject any sovereignty over the Horn of Africa and Bab al-Mandab except Arab sovereignty. The Arabs are the ones who live around Bab al-Mandab, from the East and the West, and the Horn of Africa is Arab. Even if the appellation is [word indistinct] it is in reality purely Arab, and we will fight to impose Arab control and sovereignty on Bab al-Mandab and the Horn of Africa. This is our land, and that of our grandfathers, and we will not allow the intervention of foreign forces or the existence of a foothold for them on our land. We know that any U.S. presence is not designed to help Somalia or the other peoples of the region, but to impose its imperialist domination on this sensitive region so as to exploit it in its imperialist conflict in the world against its rivals.

The brother leader also said: As we agreed in our talks, we consider that this stage, including the lessons learned, on which we draw, with its pains and losses, is over. The only thing we take from this stage is what we have learned. You experienced the fact that the imperialist [words indistinct] were brandished on a rope to Somalia, which is like a drowned man realizing that this rope is more like a hook a fisherman brandishes to bait a fish in order to catch it. The United States wants nothing apart from fishing for Somalia, Ethiopia, and all these countries, in order to catch the Horn of Africa.

The brother leader of the revolution underlined the need for struggle against U.S. control and the domination of all the big powers in this region. He said that we have priority with regard to control over this region, which is our region and our land. We are now in a situation which enables us to learn from the lessons and utilize the results. We possess Arab Libyan and Somali potentialities, which enable us to have fruitful cooperation for the benefit of our two peoples and our nation, and for the benefit of the African Continent. In addition to this, after drawing these lessons, the revolution in Libya realized that these actions, even the revolutionary actions in the African continent, are exploited by foreign powers to they can again be present in the African Continent. They exploit all regional conflicts in every part of the world.

The brother leader pointed out that we experienced this when there was a civil war near our borders, in Chad. This civil war was exploited by the French and U.S. imperialist forces, which sent their rapid deployment forces to Chad. Even now, Chad is sinking under the feet of the French and U.S. forces exploiting the civil war taking place in Chad, justifying this presence by saying that there is foreign aggression against Chad. Because of this, we made clear our standpoint to the world. We stated in a crucial and firm way that there was no intention of aggression on the party of Libya, and that any Libyan-Chadian problem will be solved in an African and fraternal spirit, thus blocking the way to the imperialist forces.

We forwarded our position to the OAU, which is making efforts to solve the problem between the two countries in a fraternal way, under the umbrella of African unity. Hence, the French and U.S. colonialist presence in Chad was uncovered, and the avid colonialists started to retreat and withdraw to save face because there is nothing which excuses their presence in Chad. He also affirmed that if the colonialists continued to stay in Chad, the Chadian people themselves will inevitably fight them.

The brother leader pointed out that for the sake of depriving imperialism and the foreign powers the opportunity to interfere in Africa, Libya has disregarded many situations, violations, and even harm, and reconstructed the bridges of relations with a number of African countries even when boycotting them and working against them was justified. We learned that it is more dangerous to continue this stance or policy, even if it was correct and justified, because it gives an opportunity to the imperialists to exploit it in interfering in Africa. But by this clear policy we might deprive the imperialists and foreign powers any justification to interfere in Africa.

The brother leader called on all African and all Third World countries to resolve their problems, whether border or other problems, by amicable, fraternal, and internal means to deprive the imperialists, who are trying to ambush us, who are waiting for any opportunity to return to our countries to exploit all these regional conflicts, to enter our land and fan this fire of local sedition and conflict.

The brother leader added: It pleases me see that the African wisdom has started to win, and we are now exposing the colonialist presence and imperialist interference in Africa. The colonialists now have nothing before them but to return to their bases, because they have lost all opportunities to interfere in the conflicts between Libya and Chad, Ethiopia and Somalia, or between Sudan and Ethiopia.

I hope that this really is the case as we turn a new leaf of joint action. We should have confidence in ourselves and our resources, and trust our sincere intentions, because we have the resources and the opportunity to exploit these resources to create fruitful cooperation between our two countries.

He said: I do not consider Somalia to be a poor country. It is rich, with its agricultural and huge water resources; it is one of the most fertile parts of Africa; it has raw materials, and is in a strategic position. This is why the superpowers are fighting to exploit it. It is better for the Somali people to exploit it, and it is better for us, we the Arabs, to exploit our land and resources.

If we sincerely mix our resources by joint cooperation, and protect them from foreign interference and the destructive ploys of the colonialist quarters, which we believe are nothing but the Machiavellian policy of "divide and rule:, then we will create cooperation which will rid us of needing them, so we will never need to extend our hand to the IMF, the World Bank, or the United States.

The United States has only its imperialist policy of blackmail and of throwing bait. This is its only policy in the world, in these continents and in these oceans. The brother leader pointed out that we do not want Somalia or any other country to be a fish attracted by this U.S. bait. We will not need its false aid if we decide to rely on ourselves and to gather our resources in a program of joint action.

Brother president, we are ready for this, and I thank you for paying this visit, which gives us this opportunity. You are welcome here.

President Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia delivered a speech in which he expressed thanks and appreciation to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the hospitality which he and the accompanying delegation enjoyed. President Barre expressed his gratitude to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan people for the aid given to the fraternal Arab people in Somalia. He stressed Somalia's commitment to consolidate the ties of fraternity between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Somalia.

President Mohamed Siad Barre stressed the importance of consolidating and developing the bilateral cooperation pointing out that this fully agrees with the content of the brother leader's speech.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Soviet Envoy

LD1912193288 Tripoli JANA in English 1714 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 19, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution received the ambassador of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics to Great Jamahiriyah who conveyed to him a message of thanks and appreciation from President Gorbachev for the humane assistance offered by Great Jamahiriyah to the victims of the earthquake that hit the Republic of Armenia.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Gabonese Official, Message

LD1912201288 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Joseph Koumba-Mouity, special advisor to the Gabonese president, who conveyed a written message from President Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and by (Francois Igoga), assistant director of President Omar Bongo's Political Bureau [as heard].

The Gabonese delegation was accompanied by the two trainee pilots who were flying a Siai Marchetti-type light aircraft belonging to the Libyan Arab Civil Aviation Club, which lost direction last November and went astray in the border region with Chad. A doctor, accompanying the Gabonese delegation, presented a report on the injuries which the two trainees sustained following the aircraft's emergency landing in Chadian territory after having been shot at by the Chadian forces, as well as x-rays on the two trainees' condition.

Jabir Meets With Sudan's Taj al-Din

LD1912075488 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir yesterday evening in Tripoli conferred with Dr Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the Sudanese State Council. [passage omitted]

During the meeting they discussed the necessary measures for consolidating the existing bilateral cooperation.

Mauritania

Taya Returns From Franco-African Summit

AB1712150988 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, returned to Nouakchott yesterday from Casablanca where he attended the 15th Franco-African heads of state summit. The head of state was welcomed on arrival by Colonel Djibril Ould

Abdellahi, the minister of interior, posts and telecommunications; the deputy permanent undersecretary at the president's office; and the chief of the presidential press service. [passage omitted]

News Agency on 'Hostile' Moroccan Press Reports
AB1812202188 Paris AFP in French 1634 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY [AMP] today published a commentary criticizing the attitude of the Moroccan press for publishing "biased information hostile to Mauritania." AMP is referring to reports in the Moroccan press according to which Mauritania is concerned "about its stability" in case of a defeat of the Polisario Front in the referendum on Western Sahara.

In its commentary, AMP recalls that the Moroccan press had lent credence to the report that Mauritania was responsible for the shooting down on 8 December over Western Sahara of a U.S. plane engaged in the anti-locust campaign, and expresses surprise that "this press" did not "publish the necessary corrections after the location and origin of the attack" on the DC-7 had been established. It will be recalled that the Polisario Front acknowledged shooting down the plane, causing the deaths of the 5-member American crew, thinking that it was a Moroccan Air Force plane.

AMP's commentary asks whether this is not "a deliberate attempt to harm our country by sowing confusion." AMP adds that these "same sources have just repeated the offense by reporting the hypothetical risk to Mauritanian stability" which would be posed by the defeat of the Polisario Front in the referendum on the Western Sahara.

The commentary describes these reports as "misleading and illogical," pointing out that it is objectively difficult to speculate on the outcome of a vote "when that vote is freely and democratically organized." "What concern could we feel at the outcome of this referendum, and why do others want so much for us to be worried?" AMP asks, stating that the Mauritanian people, "mobilized behind their national leadership, are ready to defend our full territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Our country will face any threat from wherever it comes," the agency adds. In Nouakchott it is said that the Moroccan press reported that the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, had, "on the sidelines" of the Casablanca Franco-African summit, asked President Francois Mitterrand to help him in case the Polisario Front is defeated in the referendum to be organized in Western Sahara.

According to observers, a certain tension has been evident for some time now in the relations between Rabat and Nouakchott even though, in the case of the downing of the U.S. plane as well as in the present case, no official hostility has been expressed. For the time being, the "war of the communiques" is being conducted by the press. It should be recalled that the Mauritanian head of state, Col Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, did not hesitate to go to Casablanca to attend the Franco-African summit.

Morocco

Media Briefed on Issues at Francophone Summit
LD1612150488 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Casablanca, Dec 16 (MAP)—African heads of state and delegation participating in the 15th French-African summit Thursday afternoon held an in-camera meeting devoted, according to Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, to the problems encountering the African Continent in the political, economic and social areas.

Filali told the media after the meeting that King Hassan II and other heads of state have dealt with the evolution of the Sahara issue and the solutions contemplated along with the United Nations with a view to organizing a referendum in the Sahara.

The meeting also discussed the continent's debt problem and the new propositions made by some heads of state, particularly those by President of France Francois Mitterrand, Filali said.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on his part told the media, the in-camera session also discussed African countries' relations with the International Monetary Fund.

"The IMF practices have been severely judged" particularly by presidents of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Sekou; of Gabon, Haj Omar Bongo; and of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaore, Dumas said.

Debates also focused on the problem of raw materials "which tops African countries' concerns." Presidents of Burkina Faso and of Senegal Abdou Diouf dealt with the topic in their addresses, Dumas said.

Chadian President Hissein Habre dwelt in his address on the reconstruction efforts made by his country while the Angola topic was dealt with by President of Congo Denis Sassou N'Guessou, the Angolan foreign minister and the Mozambican delegate, the French foreign minister stated.

Asked whether France has been requested to play a role in the process triggered by the recent accord between South Africa, Angola and Cuba, Dumas said the Congolese President had expressed the wish to see the five permanent members of the Security Council back these moves to materialize the accord. France assured the Congolese president it will back the accord and defend it in international fora.

Participants in the summit are to close their works this Friday after the holding of a plenary session. King Hassan II and President of France Francois Mitterrand are to hold afterwards a joint press conference.

Sudan

Khartoum Declared 'Defensive Emergency Area'

EA2012105088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20th Dec—The Emergency Committee declared here yesterday the national capital, Khartoum, a defensive emergency area. The Emergency Committee directed the security authorities to make the necessary security measures to preserve the stability of the country.

"The decision was taken according to the directives of the cabinet," the statement released by the Emergency Committee said.

The daily "AL-AYYAM" quoted today a ministerial source as saying the reasons behind declaring Khartoum as an emergency area will be officially made known either today or tomorrow.

The committee held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, the attorney-general and minister of justice. Information available to the daily "AL-AWAM" said that there was a move behind taking urgent security measures. [sentence as received]

Military Source Confirms Failed Coup Bid

PM1912160288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Dec 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Sudan Coup Attempt Mastermind Under Interrogation"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, a Sudanese military source has confirmed recent reports that a military coup attempt was foiled but denied that investigations have revealed the involvement of any foreign side in the attempt.

The source said that the coup plan was discovered in its early stages, that all participants have been arrested, and that the investigations are continuing. He added that the leader of the attempt was Lieutenant Colonel Hasan Nasr, an officer from the forces of the infantry academy, and that he confessed in the early stages of the interrogation that his attempt had nothing to do with any political side and that he is not a member of any party, political group, regional group, or any other group.

The source also said that the soldiers arrested in connection with the attempt said under interrogation that the lieutenant colonel used to talk to them about the deterioration of economic and political conditions in the country and to tell them that a foreign state would help in the coup. They also said that a retired brigadier general asked by Lt Col Nasr to join in the coup informed the general command which in turn took steps to nip the attempt in the bud.

Meanwhile the Ethiopian-Sudanese talks were resumed at the cabinet secretariat following the arrival yesterday of Fikre-Selassie, secretary general of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council.

A high-ranking Sudanese source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the two sides discussed issues of common interest and the latest developments in the peace process in Sudan in the context of the recent agreement signed by Sudanese People's Liberation Movement Leader John Garang and Democratic Unionist Party leader 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

The source added that the Sudanese side briefed the Ethiopian delegation on the activities of Sudanese officials in connection with the Eritrean question. [Sudanese Prime Minister] al-Mahdi said earlier that he has received written assurances from five Eritrean factions of their willingness to hold talks with the Ethiopian side.

Premier Opposes DUP Peace Agreement Amendments

EA1912163488 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 19 December—The prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, yesterday asserted he would not accept any amendment to his last Wednesday's proposal before parliament in which he asked to be personally authorized for taking the necessary steps with regard to the implementation of the peace agreement between the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and the rebels last month. In a press statement yesterday he would not change the proposal—(?as) has been put forward by the DUP—to include a clear-cut government acceptance to the peace initiative.

Meanwhile, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the visit of the ministerial delegation to Ethiopia, which was postponed last week, will be affected unless the assembly approves his proposal.

Al-Mahdi expressed hope that the assembly will live up to its responsibilities and approve the motion. The assembly is due to duscuss the prime minister's proposal in its today's session.

Contacts Under Way To Mend Rift With UAE

PM1512103988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic14 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "UAE-Sudan Contacts To Clarify Situation and Clear Atmosphere"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed political sources in Khartoum have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that contacts are under way between Sudan and the UAE to clarify the situation and eliminate the sudden tension in UAE-Sudanese relations following the UAE's decision to recall its ambassador from Khartoum in protest of the release of a detainee accused of complicity in the UAE storming incident in the Sudanese capital.

The sources said that Sudan wishes to explain its position, which is that the release decision was made by the judicial authorities and that it was not a political decision. [Passage omitted]

Rebels Air 'Secret' Agreement With Libya

LD1912212688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] We now read to you the draft of the secret unity agreement between Libya and Sudan.

Agreement on unity between Libya and Sudan and the establishment of a presidential council between the two countries. Charter of the (?extent) for unity between the SPLAJ [Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah] and the Republic of Sudan.

First, foundations, principles and aims of the charter:

With the aid of God and through success bestowed by Him and on the basis of the affiliation of Sudan and Libya to the Arab nation, the Islamic world and Africa, and out of the belief in total Arab unity, in faithfulness to the souls of the martyrs who waged common battles for the sake of freedom and emancipation from all forms of oppression and exploitation, and in consolidation of the ridges of unity existing between the peoples in Libya and Sudan; in preservation of the gains of two popular revolutions, the great first of September Revolution and the mass April uprising; and out of the conviction that the issue of arab unity is one of revolutionary choice and free popular will that will put an end to hesitation and move towards the achievement of arab unity;

And cognizant of the importance of [word indistinct] Arab unity as a strategic objective and a framework for the mobilisation of the Arab nations human, political and economic energies and capabilities in order to preserve its threatened existence, achievements and development: to defeat backwardness and place the Arab nation in its correct position within the process of history and thereby end all relations of association, dependency, submission and banishment so that the Arabs recover their natural role in terms of presence, effectiveness and influence in the world;

To strengthen the leading role being performed by the Great First of September Revolution in propelling the Arabs' action for unity; in affirmation of Sudan's belief in Arab unity and the role it can play in its achievements and on the basis of what is stipulated in the declaration on the establishment of peoples power in the SPLAJ and what is stipulated in the transitional Constitution of Sudan on the necessity of strengthening popular democratic action;

As a practical embodiment of the role mandated by the geographical location of the two countries: as a bridge linking the Arab orients, occidents and the interior of Africa and in consolidation of the struggle of the two people in order to attain Arab unity: and in order to deepen the ties of historical continuity between them, ties which despite the challenge and the events encountered by their struggle have proved their decisive role in achieving victory over the forces hostile to Arab, Islamic and African unity;

Committed to work for the liberation of Palestine and all occupied Arab territories, and to resist imperialist domination and foreign influence; committed to work tirelessly for the attainment of Arab unity, as urged by the Charter of the Arab League: and in the belief that Islam enables the Arab and African personality to develop in a manner that is balanced spiritually and materially, thus enabling it to avoid the dangers of bankruptcy, deviation and inertia—Islam being a faith and practice and a set of values glorifying thought and inspiring endeavour, work and impulse to morality—a progressive and struggle-oriented concept that calls for freedom and sanctifies the struggle for its sake; In affirmation of the affiliation of both countries to Africa and their adherence to the Charter of the OAU and their committment to support African peoples against colonialism, racism, Zionism and the consolidation of the freedom and the strengthening of solidarity with these people: believing in the principles of non- interference in the internal affairs and respect for the right of each and every people to choose their own political, economic and social system, and respect for the sovereignty of states and inviolablity of their territories and the nonuse of force and threats in the settlement of a dispute; and on the basis of previous experiences of unity and which dictate the necessity of preparing the popular masses to accept the new transformation its structure will undergo after the establishment of unity, and to enlighten them in a manner that will make them able to defend it against other dangers, threats and setbacks;

And on the premise that the charter of action for unity aims at:

1. The setting up of a popular democratic society in which an end is put to arbitrariness, authoritarianism and exploitation.

2. The accomplishment of economic, social, and cultural integration in accordance with the provisions of this charter so as to arrive at the achievement of unity between the two countries as a step along the party of total Arab unity.

3. The preservation of democratic and social popular gains achieved by the struggle of both peoples in the two countries.

4. A commitment to confront the Zionist entity and consolidate the armed Palestinian struggle, to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab Territories.

5. To stand in solidarity with liberation movements and struggle of peoples for self-determination.

6. Support for the solidarity of Islamic people and the leading role of Islam in strengthening their awakening and directing it towards confronting the new crusade.

7. Abidance by the policy of nonalignment and questions of international peace and security and to work for equitable new international economic order that ensures balanced development and enables developing countries to control the resources and wealth and attain their economic and social development in accordance with national priorities and the interest of the people.

Secondly, institutions of the charter— In order to implement the principles, aims, and foundations of the charter of unity and guarantee the fulfillment of the responsibilities entailed by the charter and which follow there from, the political and executive institutions of the charter for the action of unity between the SPLAJ and the Republic of Sudan shall form as follows:

1. The Presidential Council of the charter.

2. The Executive Council of the charter.

3. The Specialised Councils of the charter.

4. The National Council of the charter.

First, the Presidential Council of the Charter:

The Presidential Council of the charter of action for unity shall comprise the leaders in the two countries and shall have supreme political power to issue decisions related to the policies implementing the charter, its foundation, aims and institutions. The Presidential Council of the charter shall determine the policies connected with foreign security and defence affairs.

The Presidential Council shall issue decisions, regulations and directives essential to the implementation of the aims and programmes of the charter and its decisions shall be binding on the organs concerned in both countries. The Presidential Council of the charter shall be convened at least once every six months and its chairmanship shall be by turns and alternate between the capitals of the two countries and circumstances of emergency, extraordinary meetings may be convened upon the request of the other party to the charter.

Second, the Executive Council of the Charter:

1. The Executive Council of the charter shall be composed of a number of members and shall assume office by a decision of the Presidential Council.

2. The Executive Council shall prepare the integration and unity policies, programs and shall as well do the same plans to implement this charter in other areas provided for.

3. It shall be responsible for implementing decisions of the Presidential Council in areas stated in the charter.

4. There shall stem from the Executive Council of the charter a specialized council in areas to be specified by the provisions of this charter.

Third, the Specialized Council:

There shall be established by decision of the Presidential Council specialized councils as follows:

1. Council for Economic, Planning and Development Affairs.

2. Council for Agricultural Affairs, Animal and Water Resources.

3. Council for Culture, Information and Education Affairs.

4. Council for Health, Youth and Social Affairs.

Functions of the Specialized Council: The Council shall implement programmes, plans and the charter of the action for unity and in particular:

A. Council for Economic, Planning and Development Affairs: Endeavor to unify the economic environment in both countries through the coordination of development plans therein; lay down joint programs for economic and social development; coordinate economic, trade and fiscal policies so as to ensure the integration of development plan; lay down and supply a common policy in the field of transport and telecommunications; lay down a policy to make easier the flow of capital and to encourage joint investment; establishment of joint corporations, organizations and companies to exploit natural resources

in both countries; lay down a common policy for customs duty; lay down practical measures to neutralize trade exchanges including border trade and the abolition of customs fees on national products and guarantee freedom of movement of goods, capital and profit; and lay down action programmes to guarantee the principle of the right of ownership, the movement of citizens and conduct of economic activity in them [as heard]

B. Council for Agricultural Affairs, Water and Animal Resources: Lay down a program of agricultural development to achieve self-sufficiency in food in both countries; lay down practical plans to implement a common policy in the fields of agricultural development and animal resources; work towards the development of water resources in both countries; encourage industries based in agricultural production and the development of industries related to agricultural input; promote scientific research in the fields of the effort to improve agricultural and animal production; and promote joint investment for exploitation of fish resources.

C. Council for Culture, Information and Education Affairs: Lay down a single information and cultural policy; raise the standard of education, unify and develop curricula; modernize teaching methods and arabize higher education; create joint cultural institutions for the preservation of Arab, Islamic and African cultural heritage, its survival and promotion; and develop higher technical and technological education and expand it in the service of developed mental goals. Promote cooperation in the fields of scientific research, technology transfer and concern with the efforts of scientists and researchers; modernize educational institutions and prepare programmes for optimum utilization of the educational process in both countries. Implementation of production programs in the spheres of information, culture and education. Lay down programs of coordination between institutions of the audio, visual and print media and encourage joint production between them.

4. Council for Health and Religious Affairs. Endeavor to strengthen and promote cohesion between the two peoples in all fields in a manner that helps fulfill the aims of the charter of action for unity. Lay down a policy of integration in the fields of health, social affairs and efforts that aim to raise the health, physical and spiritual standard of the citizens. To coordinate the plans connected with the society's health in both the fields of cure and prevention of diseases. To raise the level of health services and social welfare. To coordinate policies related to insurance, social security and endeavor to unify labor legislation, conditions and terms of employment and the ideal use of the workforce in both countries. Coordinate policies related to the promotion of provisional and technical levels in the different workers and producers sectors.

Fourth, the National Council of the Charter:

The council shall be composed of not more than 60 members who shall be selected in equal numbers from among members of the Constituent Assembly in Sudan and members of the PGC [General People's Council] in the Jamahiriyah. The council shall carry out the following functions:

1. To provide and control the executive institutions of the charter in the performance of the duty.

2. Coordinate legislation linked with implementation of programs, plans, and policies of the charter.

3. Review of the laws in force in both countries and the elimination of conflicts between the [words indistinct] to ensure the implementation of the aims of the charter.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September First Revolution in the SPLAJ.

Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, prime minister the Republic of Sudan.

[Dated] Tripoli, 15th of [word indistinct] rabi al-awwal, 1308 higriah, 26th October 1988.

The document and the action for unity was prepared by a task force of both the Arab Libyan and Sudanese sides, and this effort has been supported by the signatures of the task force members on both sides whose names are as follows.

The Arab Libyan side:

1. (Sa'd Arabi Hafyanah).

2. Nasr al-Mabruk 'Abdullah.

3. Jun'ah al-Mahdi al-Ghazzani.

4. Isa Ahmad Ashur.

5. (Salih Umar al-Duruki).

The Sudanese side:

1. Aldo Ajo Deng.

2. Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman.

3. Mathew Obor.

4. Khalafallah al-Rashid [president of high court in 1974].

5. Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil al-Mahdi.

6. 'Uthman Khalid Madawi.

7. Dr 'Abd al-Malik al-Jali.

8. 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi.

[The radio notes: "The foregoing is an official translation by SPLM/SPLA Department of Information of the text of the secret agreement on unity between Sudan and Libya as published by AL-HADAF newspaper in its issue of Monday, 31 October 1988."]

Tunisia

Government Condemns 'Criminal Explosion' in Nice

LD2012000488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement:

The Tunisian Government received with emotion and indignation the news of the criminal explosion which took place on 19 December at the home for emigrant workers—the majority of whom are Tunisians—in Cagne Sur Mer in the suburbs of Nice, France. Two Tunisian citizens were slightly injured and received the necessary first aid. Their health condition is confirmed as not serious, and it is confirmed that the other Tunisians living in the same home were not hurt.

As soon as President Ben Ali learned this news, he entrusted our ambassador in Paris with letting the French Government know the Tunisian Government's indignation and condemnation of this criminal aggression.

Our consul general in Nice also went to the site to comfort our injured citizens and be reassured about their condition. They were transferred to another home in the same region in order to take the necessary measures to secure their security and protection.

While the Tunisian Government condemns these crimes, it notes with satisfaction the reaction of the French authorities at the highest level, especially by President Mitterrand who condemned this treacherous aggression and expressed sympathy with the injured.

Agricultural Ties With Soviet Union Discussed

LD1912194288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Cooperation between Tunisia and the Soviet Union covered vital sectors in the agricultural field—at the forefront of these were dams and water control. This was the focus of talks held today between Minister of Agriculture Mr. Slaheddine Ben M'Barek, and the head of the Soviet delegation in the Tunisian-Soviet Mixed Committee, which began its discussions in Tunis 2 days ago. Mr. Slaheddine Ben M'Barek and Mr Konstantin Tomishenko, USSR deputy minister for foreign economic relations, reviewed bilateral cooperation.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on 9th GCC Summit Meeting in Manama

Qabus Makes Arrival Speech

NC1912114488 Manama Television Service in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Statement by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman following his arrival at Bahrain International Airport on 19 December; read by announcer]

[Text] It is our pleasure, while meeting in the land of sisterly Bahrain, to announce that we take pride in this fraternal meeting hosted by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain. With confidence in God, we hope the ninth meeting of the GCC leaders will strengthen the harmony between the countries in the region.

We accord this meeting particular importance and view it with optimism, since it is the first Gulf summit to be held since the cease-fire took effect between the two Muslim sisters Iraq and Iran. We are determined, along with our brothers and friends all over the world, to spare no effort in working together until full peace between the two Muslim neighbors is achieved. We are certain that the rational thinking and sound judgement that we apply in discharging our duties within the framework of the GCC will enable us to find appropriate solutions with respect to the fields of cooperation among us. Foremost among these is oil, which represents the cornerstone of this region's economy and the vital nerve of our common political efforts.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special greeting to the Bahraini amir, Government, and people, as an embodiment of the strong and historic relations between our two countries. I sincerely pray to God that our work will be crowned with success.

Saudi King Makes Arrival Speech

NC1912152488 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1244 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Statement by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia following his arrival in Bahrain on 19 December; read by announcer]

[Text] It gives me pleasure at this moment of arriving in Manama to participate with my brothers, the leaders of the GCC countries, in their ninth summit conference, and to salute the Bahraini state, government, and fraternal people. I address a special greeting to his highness, my dear brother, the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah for the good reception and warm hospitality accorded to us and our accompanying delegation.

I am looking forward, together with my brothers the leaders of the GCC countries, to our new meeting. I am hoping that it will further and bolster the results we attained in our previous meetings, which we followed with our hearts and hands clasped together proceeding down the path that this council is taking. We have utilized our countries' capabilities for the good of our peoples in the Arab Gulf in particular, and in the Arab and Islamic worlds and the international community in general.

If the GCC has made great regional progress in the political, economic, cultural, and industrial spheres, this was due to the conviction of its leaders and peoples that this is natural. Our religious and fraternal bonds represent the basic principles for any other ties. From the same premise, we seek to serve our peoples and achieve further security, prosperity, and stability for them within the scope of our permanent adherence to God's book and the teachings of his prophet, Muhammad, may the prayers and peace of God be upon him, and by our quest to provide the factors of strength and support for our homelands.

Perhaps it is fortunate that the ninth GCC summit is being held amid favorable breakthroughs in the events surrounding us; notably, the end of the war between the two Muslim neighbors Iraq and Iran and the beginning of direct negotiations between them that will allow a comprehensive and just peace to cast its shade on the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, and consequently on the other peoples of the region. Our hope is that a new era of security, safety, and stability will begin with the provision of good will and a mutual understanding of the importance of devoting energy to construction, production, and creativity, and of renouncing the atmosphere of watchfulness and tension in the Arab Gulf.

This was followed, after some good-will efforts, by the beginning of direct negotiations between the Afghan mujahidin and the USSR Government in Al-Ta'if on 24 Rabi' al-Akhar 1409 of the Hegira, corresponding to 3 December 1988. This was a first step along the desired path toward a solution of the Afghan issue in a manner that will bring about the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan and enable the Afghan people to exercise their right to self-determination.

Meanwhile, through concerted efforts and collective good offices, a great achievement appeared on the scene of the Palestinian cause. This proceeded from the good initiative announced by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in his historic speech to the United Nations in Geneva on 4 Jumada al-Ula 1409 of the Hegira, corresponding to 13 December 1988. Through this speech he crowned the PNC's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

Last but not least came the U.S. Government's response, announcing its willingness to embark on a direct dialogue with the PLO in order to attain a real, lasting, and just peace that will achieve the fraternal Palestinian People's just and legitimate demands and aspirations.

In light of all this, the current stage requires that we complete the efforts we have begun and the plans we have laid in order to establish further factors of stability and continuity in our countries and for our peoples. In this we use the bridges of political, economic, security, and defense cooperation between us in taking our countries to an advanced and desired position. Through our united stands and tendencies—which, God be praised, exist—we will attain all the formulations to strengthen and make more intimate the ties of cooperation among Arab Gulf countries on the one hand, and between them and other Islamic and Arab countries in all spheres on the other hand.

In conclusion, I pray God Almighty will inspire us with wisdom in conducting our affairs and make our meetings in the framework of the GCC and the achievements it has produced a consecration of our cohesion. We have a sincere desire to act for the good of our peoples and homelands. Our goal is to attain a greater degree of economic and social integration and to preserve the region's security and stability and keep it free from conflicts so that the individual in this region will remain as he has always been: a live flame of faith and pious action for the good of his society, nation, and all of humanity.

Bahraini Amir Addresses Summit

NC1912165288 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Address by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah at the opening session of the ninth GCC summit conference held at the Sheraton Hotel Conference Hall in Manama—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My brother, custodian of the two holy mosques, my brothers, your highnesses, your majesties, our distinguished guests: In the name of God we begin, on the paths of brotherhood and harmony we meet, and with the noblest words of love and appreciation we welcome you and the friendship and kinship which you represent. Together we have bonds that are truer than words and more eloquent than speeches.

With the ideas on our minds, with the sense of commitment we have to our Arab and Gulf issues, we seek to lead our people on the paths of dignity and progress. We seek to build on our old heritage of civilization and to hand down the legacy of our great past to our future generations in their march for new and bright horizons, God willing.

Welcome and greetings to you in this Gulf home, which takes pride in your presence here among us.

My brother heads of the GCC states, the developments in our modern world, the interaction of international interests, and the interplay between these interests and changing events have imposed certain political, economic, and social tendencies on various regional groups. These groups now aim at cooperation and coordination and are moving toward greater unity in order to be in harmony with the course of history and the progress of mankind.

It is in the framework of this cultural concept that the GCC sprang to being as one of the great, if not the greatest, achievements of this region.

The inseparability of our destinies stands as a vow and a charter binding us to the achievements for which we had to work and which will bear fruit for the Arab and Islamic nations.

The ninth GCC summit coincides with world-wide changes which have repercussions in terms of international security and peace. This is why our meeting assumes such great importance in terms of its influence on the events around us.

The atmosphere of peace in the Gulf which began with the end of the Iraq-Iran war is among the major events which interest us. All of us received this significant development with extreme satisfaction, abundant optimism, and high hopes that this would be an opening for establishing normal relations and balanced policies that can restore confidence building and repair bridges which were destroyed by the painful war years, so that peace and amity can return to this area on the basis of good-neighborliness and mutual respect.

Perhaps the valiant popular uprising in the occupied land is the most pressing issue. This uprising is confronting all methods of suppression, hegemony, and imposition of capitulation, and it has greatly contributed to the continuity of the Arab Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

The declaration of the Palestinian state during the PNC meeting in Algiers was an important historic event, and we welcomed it with all pride and support. It represents a new phase in the Palestinian people's struggle to establish their independent state on their national soil.

The issue of Lebanon and the deteriorating situation there are also receiving our attention, making it incumbent upon all of us to hasten to help it contain the crisis, consolidate legitimacy, and safeguard its entity and the unity of its people so that Lebanon can ride out its crisis strongly and coherently. This will enable it to play its role in the issues of its nation under the critical Arab circumstances.

Brothers, GCC leaders, considering these important and momentous circumstances through which the Gulf region, the Arab area, and the world are passing, we look forward with much hope and ambition for what results our summit will produce and what effect it will have on

the course of events. This summit will push forward the cooperation process toward new horizons which will consolidate a complete integrated economy enjoyed by all citizens [al-muwatanah al-iqtisadiyah]. It will bolster the region's stability so that this stability can support the joint Arab action in service of our issues and contribute toward stabilizing the world's security and peace.

There has been much confidence in your council after your will was translated into building this cooperation on strong pillars of continuity among our people in a new historical movement which has integrated its past march, which is confident of its present, and which looks forward to its future.

O God, on you we rely. Guide our steps toward our common goals of goodness and charity, for you are the best supporter. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Session Begins 20 Dec

JN2012101288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0726 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Their majesties and highnesses—leaders of the GCC states—have begun their second session in Manama this morning under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain and chairman of the current session of the higher council.

The leaders will study the recommendations submitted by the ministerial council, which are topics on the summit agenda, in order to emerge with a unified concept on many political, economic, and other issues of interest to the GCC leaders.

It has been learned that the foreign ministers will hold a meeting—the third since yesterday—this evening to discuss issues raised by the GCC leaders during their side meetings, which started yesterday.

Discord Over OPEC Pact Denied

JN2012114088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current session of the GCC ministerial council, has categorically denied a UPI report yesterday alleging disagreement among GCC member states regarding commitment to the [recent] OPEC agreement.

In a statement to WAKH today, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah affirmed that the UPI report in this regard is sheer fabrication, as there is absolute consensus on backing and supporting the agreement and on adhering to its articles.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Interviewed on GCC, Other Issues

JN1612180188 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Dec 88 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah by chief editor Ahmad al-Jarallah—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: The upcoming GCC summit in Bahrain promises to be especially important at this juncture. Do you subscribe to this assessment?

Answer: The summit will be held against the backdrop of international detente. The Gulf war has ended, and as you know, this war was quite a drain on Gulf resources. The tension that attended the war had a very disruptive effect upon the process of construction and development. The Bahrain summit will convene in an atmosphere of a watershed of political, economic, and industrial implications for the region that present us with the challenge of to be or not to be.

What I mean by international detente is that the volatile trouble spots in the world are no longer so. There has also been a de-escalation of the cold war between the superpowers. There have been many changes this year ahead of the GCC summit. As you know, there is interaction between these developments and regional developments here. We anticipate the Bahrain summit to be one of achievement and momentum. This anticipation is bolstered by the fact that the Gulf leaders are similarly imbued with this spirit. [passage omitted]

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: What kind of resolutions can the summit make to reinforce the momentum of the GCC march?

Answer: In the first instance, it is normal for there to be differences of opinion and this need not produce animosity. We should also leave points of disagreement to be addressed in more favorable circumstances in the future. We in the Gulf are descended from the same forefathers. A cursory look at our behavioral history will find that blood is thicker than water.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: Some say the Gulf war has had a disruptive effect on the GCC. What do you think?

Answer: We did disagree about the Gulf war. This, however, has not split our ranks. In the last few months, though, the vision before us has been clearer. We have been a more cohesive force. I now feel that our momentum is in better shape than in the past. The general feeling among us is that we ought to make ourselves felt as a monolithic force rather than a fragmented entity.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: There are some people who believe that with the end of the war, Iraq's exceptional power emerged and might be a danger to the GCC states in the future. What do you think?

Answer: Regrettably, there are some people who want to spread such an impression, as if Iraq were a foreign country. Iraq triumphed, and we cooperated with it and helped it achieve this victory. This is our duty toward Arabism. This Iraqi power must be considered a power for the entire region. It should not be a source of fear, but a source of pride. Power alone cannot be a source of fear.

The United States is strong, the Soviets are strong, and many other are so, but this does not constitute a source of fear for anybody. Iran was also strong at the time of the shah. Power might be a source of pride and could be exploited in an ethical way. Iraq will not forget its brothers' assistance. Iraq's power is our power also. Iraq is not a hostile country, but an Arab power. The circumstances of its regional relations affirm to us that it is far away from the claims that it will be a source of unrest to us.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: It has also been said that the proposal to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad stems from the desire to show that the Arabs are with Iraq in peace as well as in war. What is your opinion?

Answer: The decision to hold the summit provides that the venue will be Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. And Iraq believes—in light of our contacts with it—that the natural venue is Riyadh. However, we believe that Iraq repulsed many dangers to the Arab homeland and offered martyrs to safeguard the Arab borders. Consequently, we must stand on its side in its diplomatic struggle to achieve a final solution. Iraq deserves every appreciation for its steadfastness.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: How do you view Gulf-Iran relations now that the war has stopped?

Answer: The war lasted 8 years and the Gulf states were affected by its fires. The war created an atmosphere of tension in Gulf-Iran relations. Now that the war has stopped—and we worked and called for this—it has become necessary to establish other relations with Iran—relations that are far removed from tension. All that we need to reach this end is some time for souls to calm, relax, and get rid of the effects of tension that prevailed in previous relations. In the end, equal neighborly relations must be established far removed from interference in others' affairs.

We now want the Iraq-Iran talks in Geneva to end as the war ended, the neighborly relations between the two countries to improve, and the atmosphere of relations that previously prevailed between the Arabs and Iran to be restored. It is not in the interests of anybody to keep tension prevailing and to see the region facing the danger of resuming the war, which left behind nothing but destruction. We want the implementation of the Iraqi-Iranian agreement on Security Council Resolution No 598. We want the negotiations on the resolution's articles and the stages of its implementation to proceed simply and easily.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: You previously talked about the atmosphere of international detente, which is continuing. Does this mean that you will take advantage of this positive atmosphere to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union?

Answer: Some GCC countries have established relations with the Soviet Union. We, in Bahrain, decided last year to have a trade fair in which Eastern block countries will participate. The fair will take place at the beginning of the new year. Six Eastern block countries have already applied to participate in it. This is an initiative toward another move, which we are preparing and calculating for. The Soviet Union is a superpower, and its role must be taken into account. We do not deny this. The issue is not that of recognition, but the exchange of diplomatic representation.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: How do you view the PNC Algiers resolutions, which declared acceptance of 242 and 338 and the establishment of the Palestinian state?

Answer: Within the atmosphere of the GCC summit, we believe that the Palestine question is developing in a positive way. Previously, we discussed this question in the GCC resolutions, which came out after every summit. Now, the GCC foreign ministers have gone to Geneva carrying with them Gulf resolutions, which they will explain to the international field.

We followed up on the last Palestinian happening. We supported the realistic PNC resolutions. I believe that they have now managed to win the support of world public opinion, which is the important factor in supporting solutions for the international issues. We are waiting for the Palestinians to gain the fairness of the world and recognition of their rights.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: I move to another topic and ask: How is the economic situation in Bahrain?

Answer: There is economic stagnation or recession, which the world went through. We are a part of this world. However, our people adapted to this recession and prepared themselves for it. We do not want to live beyond our means. We are not a debtor nation, which is a very good thing. We used to get some subsidies from our brothers, but we cannot ask anything of them so long as their local commitments contradict that.

All we want is that relations with the GCC be permanently secure and comfortable. Money, in the coming stage, especially as far as the countries with a limited income are concerned, should be used in development projects. In our relations with GCC countries, we do not want subsidies. We just want to feel that their hearts are with us, as our hearts are with them in times of need.

Question: Your Highness the Prime Minister: What is the situation of your coming budget going to be?

Answer: It will be better, God willing, with the end of the war. We believe that a period of prosperity will return to the region. Therefore, we believe that the role of the GCC in the coming stage is important and historic. [passage omitted]

Oman

Qabus Views Upcoming GCC Summit, Other Issues

JN1812195688 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 Dec 88 pp 6-7

[Interview with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id by Ahmad a-Jarallah in Muscat on 16 December]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, how do you view the Bahrain [GCC summit] meeting 2 days from now, and how do you describe it?

[Qabus] We have already given a title to the summit. It will be called the meeting of security and achievement. We can give it many names, but the fact remains that the Bahrain summit is being held amid important circumstances that are different from those that surrounded the previous GCC summits. The GCC will be held in a tension-free atmosphere—now that the Iraq-Iran war has stopped—in an atmosphere of more awareness among GCC leaders. The summit will also be supported by a more sensitive popular climate.

The upcoming summit is very important because we as leaders will face issues that pressure the peoples of the region and require treatment, especially the issue of the larger detente that is supposed to be realized among the region's peoples. This detente is needed to make our group more effective, more constructive.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, Oman is sometimes accused of swimming against the tide in terms of GCC issues. How do you view this accusation?

[Qabus] It is not like this. The question is one of patience. God Almighty created the universe in 6 days, although he could have done it in 1 day. We support cohesion in the interests of the GCC states, but we have our own considerations in this matter, which some regard as unnecessary.

For our part, we are of the view that some national interests must be carefully considered so the capable will not overcome the incapable. However, as circumstances have changed and we have reached the stage of equality in many political and economic issues, we have become more flexible. We have met all the conditions that were demanded of us, and we no longer have reservations except on rare issues and problems.

This means that we have started to feel that equal opportunities are being made available to everyone. Our people are no longer harmed in this regard. In the past, we voiced reservations on certain matters of cooperation, but our reservations were temporary and not permanent. We were of the view that all must have equal opportunities so that none will be harmed. Our brothers appreciated our stand. After all, we support a strong cooperation council. We want to benefit from it and from its strength as a bloc that protects the interests of the region's people and realizes progress for them.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, let us move on to another question. Has the Iraq-Iran war really ended?

[Qabus] Officially, the war has ended and we are very pleased with this. However, until a peace agreement is signed and Resolution No 598 is implemented, the threat of a renewal of the war still exists and feelings in this reagrd are still cautious. This caution will never be dissipated unless the forces of the two sides withdraw to international borders and principles of peace are applied. We sincerely hope that this darkness will be dissipated and amity will be restored to the region.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, with the war over, what will relations between the Gulf Arabs and Iran be like? Do you think we should now move toward Iran?

[Qabus] The second article in the Iraqi-Iranian agreement concerns the GCC countries. I think once the two countries reach a peace pact, relations between Iran and the region's states will be good. We must bear in mind that Iran is our next-door neighbor. It is important for us that the end of hostilities turns into real peace. As GCC members, we should then move toward normal ties with Iran in the interests of removing regional tension. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, some say Iraq's newfound power following its victory could cause apprehension to some of the region's states. What do you think?

[Qabus] Iraq is an Arab country, and its strength should enhance ours. Iraq is the only country that can allay such concerns. I was delighted to receive an Iraqi envoy recently. It is no secret that he brought up the subject of such fears and noted that they have been expressed by some people. He effectively refuted all such apprehensions.

Iraq said through its emissaries that it respects the GCC community and appreciates the circumstances and homogeneity among its six constituent members and their uniqueness. Iraq made the point that, while it understands that only Gulf states are grouped in the GCC, this fact is ascribable to the member states' social homogeneity.

Iraq also said that it perceives the Gulf grouping as a strength recognized and respected by the Iraqi leadership. Our Iraqi brothers have done a good job allaying such apprehensions. On our side, we do not harbor such feelings. We know that if the subject came up backstage, the fears have no existence in reality, since Iraq is an Arab country and its victory is ours. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, let's now talk about Oman. One may wonder if it is full of foreign bases.

[Qabus] We have none whatsoever. There are foreign fleets in international waters, though. I asked Oman's Navy to exercise the utmost restraint in our tense territorial waters during the 8 years of the Gulf war and to avoid any reckless action that might invite foreign naval presence. Naturally, some foreign vessles call at our ports on occasion, a practice common enough around the world. After completing their visits, these vessels leave. The visits are open and not secret; they do not compromise Oman's sovereignty.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, what about joint military exercises with foreign countries?

[Qabus] This is part of the military training plans according to which our armies benefit from any progress made by the forces of friendly states. I do not think this undermines our national sovereignty. This is done by many countries and it cannot be interpreted other than some type of fruitful cooperation benefiting armies once these countries realize that it is necessary to benefit from training and the experience of others.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, what about the restoration of relations between some GCC states and the Soviet Union?

[Qabus] Although the GCC states form a bloc, they are part of the international community. They influence this community and are influenced by it. The Soviet Union is a superpower and an important sphere in the international community. I believe that diplomatic relations should be established between the Soviet Union and the rest of the GCC states because we need this important country, especially since there are no longer any reservations about it. The Soviet Union today is different from what it was a few years ago. It suffices to see the volume of international aid pouring into this country following the recent Armenian earthquake in order to discover the extent of its relations with the international community. The Soviet Union is no longer that mysterious state or the iron curtain state. This state no longer keeps its internal affairs secret. It began to deal with these affairs in the same manner as others deal with their affairs. Everything is open and declared. The Soviet Union is no longer that state which closes its door on itself and isloates itself from others. It is even no longer apprehensive about the support and aid the world is extending to it. Hence, we are dealing with a state whose ideology and way of thinking are different from those which persisted throughout many past years.

While we are seeking to project our strength and the strength of our grouping, we should exchange diplomatic representation with the Soviet Union because it is, as I have said, an important sphere, as is the case with other states. Therefore, I believe that diplomatic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GCC states should be completed as time now is most appropriate.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, could you tell us the reasons for your recent visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE?

[Qabus] The visit was one of the visits we pay to all states in the region. I think it is the right time to closely exchange ideas. Such bilateral meetings leave a good impression. They also create a dynamism for cooperation. I decided to visit Riyadh and Abu Dhabi before the summit meeting in Bahrain. The visit was aimed at exchanging views in order to reach further agreement on them.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, why was your recognition of the Palestinian state delayed?

[Qabus] The desire to establish the State of Palestine has been declared, but the state itself has not yet been established. Hence, what has actually taken place was the decision to establish this state. Nevertheless, we support the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Palestinian brothers have explained to us the nature of recognition, which has moral dimensions, so we immediately announced our recognition. For us, the point is that there is no need to defend out view on the Palestine question because we support both this question and any solution to it as viewed by the brothers in the PLO.

We are pleased that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has yielded fruit and had results that we have long been calling for. In our speech before the United Nations in 1983, and in another speech in London, I said that without supporting the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, the Palestinian revolution will remain an external revolution combatted by foreign forces. These forces sometimes call the Palestinian revolution terrorist; sometimes they call it parasitic; and at other times they say it does not reflect the demands of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Palestinian revolution was combated, but it was

entrenched on the world level when the occupied territories rose and when the world's forces felt that Israel cannot tame the Palestinians in the occupied territories and that the Palestinians, both inside and outside the occupied territories, want a state.

The Palestine question has managed to impose its presence, and what happened in the world when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refused to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States was enough. The world moved to Geneva to listen to 'Arafat and judge his historic attitudes. Hence, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz served the Palestine question, which is now being enhanced by the uprising in the occupied territories—an uprising that I can only greet and respect. I told the Palestinian brothers who visited me recently: The U.S. secretary of state's decision has served you, and a harmful thing may turn out to be useful.

I also told them: You are now proceeding on the correct path in favor of the cause, away from the world's accusation that you embrace or call for terrorism or that you do not seek peace. The uprising in the occupied territories has laid down new concepts. We said that and expected it many years ago. Moreover, we are now happy because the Palestine question is picking the fruit of the blessed uprising and also because the attitudes of the Palestinian revolution have become historic ones meriting both world respect and doing justice to the revolution's people. [Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, let us move on to another subject. What about the economic situation?

[Qabus] The situation of our economy is like that of other states. There is a decline in revenues, but this did not affect the state's principal expenditure. We have not tried to cut on anything related to the citizen's life. On the contrary, we maintained gains in the principal public expenditure. However, with the decline in revenues, some projects were postponed and others were given a longer completion time. This recession had its negative and positive results. We are happy that the decline in revenues came following the completion of our infrastructure like roads, services and other projects. We expedited the completion of our infrastructure within 5 years because we wanted the Omani citizen to see on the 15th national day of the Sultanate that many changes have taken place.

All here felt that the Sultanate's projects, particularly the infrastructure, have been accomplished. The decline in revenues has, of course, its negative aspects, but these are temporary and we are dealing with them by adapting ourselves to the amount of income and by spending this income according to its figures. The recession also had positive points. Had it not occurred, we would have been in the process of implementing a policy aimed at stopping the ineffectiveness caused by government expenditure. Naturally, we need an active apparatus in which there is no trace of sluggishness or ineffectiveness.

Hence, we believe that rationalizing expenditure, which was dictated by the decline in revenues, has fulfilled the idea of disciplining the state apparatus and removing any ineffectiveness. I would like to add that even if revenues improve over the coming years, we will not resort to unstudied expenditure. Our expenditure will have limits and we will try to build up a general reserve to prop up the state and pay off its domestic loans. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jarallah] Your Majesty, some believe that you are closing the doors of Oman in the face of those coming to it. What is your majesty's opinion?

[Qabus] I think that the coming stage requires flexibility. We began to open the door for the GCC states' citizens and canceled the condition of an advance entry visa. We also noted a considerable movement to visit Oman. In view of this, there should be further flexibility to include other natiionalities. What is important for me is that this flexibility should apply to all, with some security justifications which are not as difficult as they were in the past.

Many things have changed and with these changes we can be more flexibile. The situation here is no longer the same as it was in the past in terms of the security stringency, which was required. We want to open our doors once we have something to show to the visitor. Now that utilities have been completed and Oman has become a country worth visiting, it is opting for flexibility and this will happen.

Minister on Ship Interception, British Policy

JN1912161188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] London, 19 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has warned against Iran's interception of Iraqi ships in the international waters in the Arabian Gulf. He said this will be a clear obstacle to our trade.

In statements published by the British newspaper THE OBSERVER, he explained that such interference may result in the resumption of war between the two countries. Latif Nusayyif Jasim pointed out that Iran still holds 70,000 Iraqi prisoners of war, including 27,000 who have not yet been registered. He also criticized Britain's policy and its involvement in the U.S.-Zionist campaign against Iraq. He said Britain should relinquish its colonialist policies through which it expresses hatred against Arabs and Palestinians.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Geneva 16 Dec

JN1612185688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned here this evening after taking part in the meetings of the UN General Assembly on the Palestine question held in Geneva on 13 December. He was received in the airport by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and the Foreign Ministry under secretaries.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 18 Dec

JN1812205288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Mr Bessmertnykh, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, arrived here this evening on a several-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Soviet official will hold talks with Iraqi officials on relations between the two countries. He was received by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN1912200088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1907 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here this evening with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation.

They reviewed the developed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to enhance them in all fields based on the long-maintained traditional relations of friendship and cooperation. The two parties stressed that both the Iraqi and USSR leaderships are determined to promote these relations in the future.

They also reviewed the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations under the UN secetary general's patronage to attain a comprehensive and lasting peace. The two parties discussed the Middle East situation in light of the developments in the Palestine question, particularly the growing international support for the Palestinian people's right to live in peace in their independent homeland. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow, and the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Sa'dun Hammadi Meets USSR Parliamentarians

JN1912174088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Talks were held here today between a National Assembly delegation and a USSR parliamentary delegation currently visiting Iraq. The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Sa'dun Hammadi, National Assembly speaker, while the USSR side was led by Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan.

The talks dealt with the latest developments in the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran as well as Arab and international issues of common interest. Sa'dun Hammadi reviewed Iraq's principled stands to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace with Iran. He emphasized Iran's responsibility for ending the peace negotiations between the two countries. He pointed to the current administrative and economic revolution in Iraq under President Saddam Husayn, which he said aims to activate the Iraqi economy.

Nishanov urged concerted efforts by Arab and international parliaments in order to make a genuine and effective contribution to the achievement of peace between Iraq and Iran. He also pointed to the importance of parliamentary meetings between the two countries in enhancing and promoting bilateral relations. The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the deputy speaker and secretary of the National Assembly and on the USSR side by the delegation accompanying Nishanov as well as by the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

'Almost Final' Cabinet List Reported

TA1912200188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] There is still a lot of running around in both large parties over the manning of the ministerial portfolios and the final Cabinet structure.

The following is the makeup of the Cabinet at this stage, but with the reservation that there could still be minor changes in the coming days:

Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister; Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister; Yitzhaq Rabin, defense minister; Moshe Arens, foreign minister; David Levi, deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister; Yitzhaq Navon, education minister; Ari'el Sharon, industry and trade minister; Ora Namir, health minister; Dan Meridor or Roni Milo, justice minister; Moshe Qatzav or Roni Milo, transportation minister; Yitzhaq Moda'i, economics and planning minister; Avraham Katz-'Oz or Ya'aqov Tzur, agriculture minister; Hayim Bar-Lev, police affairs minister; Gid'on Pat, science minister; Moshe Shahal, energy and infrastructure minister; Gad Ya'aqobi, communications minister; Avraham Sharir or Gid'on Pat, tourism minister; and Moshe Qatzav or an Agudat Yisra'el representative, labor and social affairs minister.

The Interior and Immigration Absorption Ministries will be given to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] representatives, while the National Religious Party will receive the Religious Affairs Ministry and be allowed to have another minister without portfolio.

'Ezer Weizman and Moshe Nisim will be ministers without portfolio.

To repeat, this is an almost final list, but it might undergo changes in some portfolios before the government is presented to the president.

Religious Parties Express 'Anger' Over Change

TA1912183988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Likud and Labor parties this afternoon agreed to form a broad government. The last obstacle was overcome at a meeting between Labor's Moshe Shahal and the Likud's Dan Meridor. Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] have expressed anger and disappointment. They are accusing the Likud of going back on its promises to them. The National Religious Party [NRP] is also expressing concern.

However, Tehiya will probably join the coalition in spite of the Likud's concessions to Labor on the issue of settlements. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Passage omitted] The NRP is angry over the reports that Shamir promised Labor the Education Ministry after having promised it to the NRP, and Agudat Yisra'el's Menahem Porush accused Shamir of betrayal and warned that he would pay for it. Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz of SHAS said that Shamir has broken promises which he made to the SHAS spiritual leader, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, in return for SHAS's recommendation to the president that he, Shamir, form the government. However, Ge'ula Kohen, chairwoman of the Tehiya party, said that in view of the difficult international situation Israel faces, Tehiya will probably join the coalition.

HADASHOT Outlines Details of Guidelines

TA2012113488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir entitled: "The Guidelines"]

[Text]
— Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will retain his post for the full duration of the government's term: 4 years.

— The government will initiate a continuation of the peace process. Israel will aspire toward direct negotiations with Arab countries and with a Palestinian delegation that will be compiled of leaders from the territories.

— Political initiatives—whether raised by elements in Israel or outside it—will not be advanced unless the government decides as much.

— The government will not negotiate with the PLO.

— A political-defense cabinet, which will constitute a decisive body and will comprise ministers from the Likud and the Alignment, will be set up.

— The government will take aggressive action to restore security in the territories.

— The government will act toward economic recovery and the renewal of the growth process.

— In case one of the large parties should decide to leave the government, it will be banned from negotiating with the religious parties on the establishment of a new government, in accordance with the coalition agreement. In such a case, an agreement will be made on holding new elections.

— The participation of other parties in the government is subject to the consent of both the Likud and the Alignment.

Shamir Calls Herut Vote 'Vote of Confidence'

TA2012072488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir views tonight's planned vote in the Herut Central Committee as a vote of confidence in himself and will not compromise on his plan to set up a broad-based government. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Mr Shamir will present the Likud ministers list for the first time in the Central Committee tonight. He will tell delegates that the primary national interest—which is also the Likud's interest—lies in forming a broad-based government with the Alignment, because the struggle over Judaea and Samaria has begun. According to Shamir, the next 2 years will be crucial in the struggle against a Palestinian state and against a retreat to the 1967 borders. Only by presenting a united front will we be able to overcome.

Meanwhile, the opposition within the Likud to a broad-based government is growing. The following six Knesset members are demanding a secret ballot: Mikha'el Eytan, Tzahi Hanegbi, Yehoshu'a Sagi, Sha'ul 'Amir, Mikha'el Kleiner, and Pinhas Goldstein.

The Prime Minister's Office has denied that Mr Shamir said that he anticipates serious problems in the IDF if the Likud holds the defense portfolio. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports, however, that Minister Ari'el Sharon stands by his story that the prime minister did make such remarks. Sharon's reply: This is a difficult hour for the Likud, which did not assume the responsibility of ruling.

Mixed reactions were heard tonight among the religious parties at the conclusion of their representatives' meetings with the prime minister. Representatives of the National Religious Party [NRP] were very disappointed. They expressed the feeling that they are being cheated. According to the NRP representatives, the prime minister had told them that there is no agreement yet with the Alignment and that he would consult them again before signing it. Agudat Yisra'el representatives, on the other hand, said that the prime minister said he would keep his promises concerning portfolios and other substantive issues.

Minister Peretz of SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim] has said that his party will take a very grave view of any changes made in the Likud commitments to it. Our correspondent notes, however, that SHAS is willing to forego some of the promises given to it and even presented the Likud with a lengthy list of concessions.

Likud Central Committee To Ratify Coalition Pact

TA2012115388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] This morning, the prime minister met with Minister Zvulun Hammer, whom he officially advised that the Alignment will receive the education portfolio and that the National Religious Party [NRP] will get the religious affairs portfolio; another representative of that party will be a minister without portfolio.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr Shamir also met this morning with David Levi, who is scheduled to be the housing and construction minister, and with Yitzhaq Moda'i, the future economy minister. Other Likud ministers, including Hayim Corfu, have not been informed so far whether they will be included in the next government and in what capacity.

The Likud Central Committee will convene at 1800 [1600 GMT] tonight to ratify the agreement with the Alignment and the Likud ministers list. Since this morning, Yitzhaq Shamir and his aides have been examining the trends prevailing among the Central Committee members. Our correspondent notes that Mr Shamir is determined to form a broad-based government, and that if he does not receive the Central Committee's support, he will return his mandate to the president.

Peres Interviewed on Future Government, Tasks

TA2012072988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Golan] Future Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, good morning.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Golan] Are you pleased with the agreement with the Likud?

[Peres] Under the circumstances, yes.

[Golan] Those who oppose the broad-based government said that while you and Yitzhaq Rabin will be busy quelling the intifadah [uprising] and dealing with the serious economic problems, the political issues will be managed by Mr Shamir and Professor Arens.

[Peres] First of all, the first two are not negligible issues. The strength of foreign policy issues is also determined by the internal situation, both at present and in the future. Second, we do not intend to stay away from political issues. Who said we do? On the contrary, we will be active and persistent in our stands. The issue of peace will remain the central part of our activity and interest.

[Golan] It is difficult, however, to deal with peace out of the Finance Ministry. That is the office where matters such as the collapse of industries and other problems are dealt with.

[Peres] Dealing with peace is always difficult, even out of the Foreign Ministry. We do not deal with peace because it is easy, but because it has to be dealt with.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, someone has said that during the Alignment's talks with the Likud, it was said that the Alignment's intention is to join a government, not to join the Likud. What does this mean?

[Peres] It was I who said that yesterday to Mr Shamir. Mr Shamir said he hoped it would be a joint government. I replied that cooperation is possible only if both parties realize perfectly well that the Alignment is not joining the Likud, just as the Likud is not joining the Alignment. We have two opinions, two ways, and we do not intend to deviate one iota, not for one moment, from our stands or our way.

[Ben-'Ami] Will this government, therefore, speak in one voice?

[Peres] If we manage to achieve one voice, one voice it will be. It will not, however, be the voice of only one of the two parties.

[Golan] We are not talking about acting in a vacuum. You had 4 years together, during which you did not speak in one voice, but rather in an occasional cacophony.

[Peres] Look, first of all, the 4 years were composed of 2 years with each of us. There were a lot of things we achieved during that period. Now, however, the situation is different. First of all, because of the present electoral system, we all emerged bruised and ridiculous from the elections. This system must be changed.

[Golan] Will you act toward that?

[Peres] Yes, absolutely. We have agreed to set up an interministerial committee to work for electoral reform. Second, I believe the establishment of this government will prevent the splintering of the nation by the previously proposed Law of Return amendment.

[Ben-'Ami] Which will not pass, I understand?

[Peres] No, I believe it will not pass in the new political reality. The third point is the steps we will take to improve the horrible state of our economy, from the point of view of immigration, emigration, and unemployment.

[Ben-'Ami] You yourself, Mr Peres, do not have a lot of time to rest. You must begin to formulate a new budget proposal.

[Peres] If I was looking to rest, I would have chosen a different occupation. I know the situation is very difficult and grave. The challenge of the Treasury has certainly impressed me, because I am not looking for an easy life.

Now, as for the political issue, we have agreed on the following: a) We will act for peace. b) There will be parity in the Inner Cabinet, with a group of ministers whose task it will be to act on the peace issue. We will also take action to enable residents of the territories to participate in the peace process.

[Golan] Minister Peres, regarding your future position as finance minister, one view is that you will find yourself in a catch: If you assist the Labor Party industries, the Histadrut plants, or the kibbutz and moshav movement, the Likud will protest. If you do not assist them, the party will protest.

[Peres] I tell you, some of the people here are really very tenderhearted. I have not done anything so far, yet everyone is already either pitying or eulogizing me. As a rule, I will neither turn my back on any problem nor make or propose decisions that are biased by my affiliation. I will attend to all the problems and will adopt an unbiased attitude toward the various sectors.

[Golan] Do you not fear losing your popularity? Finance ministers have never been popular people in this country, particularly not in the present difficult period.

[Peres] If I can reduce unemployment, even at the cost of my popularity, I will be content. I do not think popularity is an end in itself. I never sought popularity, and I am not doing so now. Right now we have to address genuine national problems. The political and social issues should not be turned into a national festival, into some sort of a contest for first prize, as they have been recently.

I can see two basic goals, the first being peace. Contrary to what Minister Sharon has said, the problem does not lie with the territories, but rather in maintaining a Jewish majority in Israel. We cannot concentrate on one issue and ignore all others. The second part of this issue is the Arab peace offensive, which must be answered by a Jewish peace offensive rather than by a flood of tears.

The second goal is economic growth. Despite all the difficulties—and I have no illusions regarding those—I will do my best to get the economy out of its current distress into a process of growth. This is vital for the young generation, for our sons returning from the military service, for the developing towns, the Negev, the Galilee, the entire country. We cannot just stand aside and watch ourselves like third parties. What are we: UN observers?

[Golan] Minister Peres, perhaps some information to end this interview: When will the Labor Party Central Committee convene? This is not clear.

[Peres] Perhaps tomorrow, although in our party the situation is different from the Likud, because in principle, our Central Committee has already approved the establishment of a broad-based government. The Central Committee will have to approve the list of ministers and the guidelines.

[Golan] As for your demand concerning the chairmanship of the Knesset Finance Committee: We have heard that Avraham Katz-'Oz is not interested in the position. Is there a new candidate acceptable both to you and the prime minister?

[Peres] I was not aware you have already started manning the positions. I myself have not yet started.

[Golan] This point presented a serious obstacle during the negotiations.

[Peres] The job, not the candidate.

[Ben-'Ami] Have you not prepared the list of Alignment ministers either?

[Peres] No, not yet.

[Golan] But Rabin will be the defense minister, will he not?

[Peres, laughing] Do you want to do the work for me?

[Golan] God forbid. Thank you very much, Mr Peres.

[Peres] All the best.

Sharon: Unity Government Not To Test Shamir

TA2012073888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has warned that the establishment of a broad-based government can lead to a Palestinian state and a withdrawal to the 1967 borders. According to him, the Labor Party is liable to drag the Likud to objectives that are in direct opposition to its policy.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel this morning, Minister Sharon said that the partnership with the Labor Party is a broken reed. Labor Party heads, he added, can initiate a coup if they find an opportunity to promote their political goals.

Minister Sharon noted that the matter of a unity government is not a personal test of Yitzhaq Shamir's leadership, because Shamir is the agreed candidate for premiership in both either a narrow- or broad-based government.

As for Mr Shamir's remarks saying that he foresees grave problems in the IDF if the Likud retains the defense portfolio, Minister Sharon said: In David Ben-Gurion's days, any officer stating his opinion on the government composition was immediately ousted from the army, regardless of his personal ability. The army should not be involved in politics. The Prime Minister's Office has denied that Mr Shamir made these remarks.

Shamir Meets U.S. Envoy; Calls Ties 'Excellent'

TA1912174188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that Israeli-U.S. relations are excellent despite Washington's decision to talk to the PLO. He expressed the hope that the PLO shadow which has been hovering over relations between the two countries will soon disappear.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in a farewell meeting with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Mr Shamir said that his new government will continue to cooperate with the United States in bringing peace to the region. Ambassador Pickering also held a farewell meeting with Foreign Minister Peres and lunched with the president. New U.S. Ambassador William Brown will arrive in Israel in 8 days.

Salah Khalaf Sees Bush as 'Relatively Positive'

TA2012073688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat's deputy, Salah Khalaf, or Abu Iyad as he is often called, today announced that the uprising in the administered territories will continue. He told reporters in Abu Dhabi that this would happen despite the ongoing dialogue with the United States. More on this and related developments from Arye Yehezqel:

Salah Khalaf warned the United States against, as he put it, playing a game of concessions with the PLO. He said this would damage Palestinian national unity. Abu Iyad also said that the PLO would like the dialogue with Washington to be conducted on a higher level than at present.

Asked for his opinion of President-elect George Bush, the PLO's No 2 man said his comments so far on the Middle East had been relatively positive and flexible. [passage omitted]

Al-Tarazi on Nature of Palestinian State

TA2012093788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 88 p 12

[Interview with Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, PLO representative to the United Nations, by Yoram Hamizrahi; in Cairo, date not given]

[Text] [Hamizrahi] How will the Palestinian state come into being?

[Al-Tarazi] A Palestinian state cannot be expected to be established as long as there is an army of occupation whose presence deprives the population of freedom, independence, and all its rights. The occupation has taken away the right to self-determination. This military occupation will be liquidated. It need not happen overnight or in one stroke of the hand—that would simply be impractical. A thing like that takes time; the less time it takes, however, the better.

This may sound like self-destruction to some Israelis, but what I am saying is that after 40 years, they should know better: Israel has nothing to fear from the military point of view. It has the infrastructure of a military superpower that is considered one of the best in the world: the best deployed and the most sophisticated. They defeated all the Arab armies together, but they failed to realize one thing: It is impossible to defeat the Palestinians. The Israelis must realize that it is impossible to fight and win a battle against them.

[Hamizrahi] Is it impossible to stop the intifadah [uprising]?

[Al-Tarazi] Yes, it cannot be stopped. The question is: What will be the mainstay of such a state? When you think of the state, you must think of how it will survive.

If you consider the fact that even the United States has an enormous deficit, what is survival? What is important is how you keep the state afloat... It is important to be productive. Economic survival is organically linked, and that is why I view the partition as a punishment that resulted in the birth of inseparable Siamese twins which are joined by a common economic spine. I do not see any grave economic problems... After all, the 120,000 people crossing the Green Line every day will continue to do so, only without reservation.

They may even rent flats close to their jobs, instead of traveling home every night... I see nothing wrong with trying everything where economic cooperation is concerned. A few years after a settlement is reached, we will have to use Haifa, because the Gaza port is not very good. We will naturally pay levies. It will not be a free port, but rather a central port.

[Hamizrahi] What about the issue of Jerusalem, according to the 'Arafat statement, and how will the refugee problem be solved?

[Al-Tarazi] I know that the issue of Jerusalem is a mine field liable to foil any attempt at a peace settlement from the outset. I know it is a difficult problem which cannot be solved overnight, but I cannot say there is no solution. With some goodwill, we will eventually find a solution. There are no historical precedents concerning Jerusalem. History changes. You will find that in the 21 years of occupation, Jerusalem divided itself more than the division created by the Jordanian wall. It does not have to be included in the initial stages. You are saying that Jerusalem is the raison d'etre of the Jewish nation, and I am saying that it is raison d'etre of the Palestinian people.

If Jerusalem means so much to a Jew from Brooklyn who has never been there, consider what it means to a Palestinian who was born and raised there.

[Hamizrahi] What will be the future of the Jewish settlement in the territories?

[Al-Tarazi] I do not wish to use the 100,000 settlers as a pawn in a game of chess. I know they are not happy where they are. I can see them walking around with machine guns—it is irrelevant whether that is justified or not. They live in an atmosphere of fear and threats which breeds hatred and revengefulness. What do they need this for? Why create this situation? They may want to remain there; the question is only in what framework. The Palestinian state can include foreigners. During the days of the British rule, for instance, there were Germans, Greeks, and even German villages in the area. They were settlers who accepted the laws of the country. Some of them became citizens, while others retained their foreign nationality, subject to the local laws, of course.

[Hamizrahi] Do you not foresee the immediate removal of the settlements?

[Al-Tarazi] The settlements constitute a situation that poses obstacles, because what can you do with these people? They number no more than 60,000, and they are not happy.

If they want to live there because of spiritual ties, and if they do so within the framework of the laws of the state, that could solve everything. What am I to do, for instance, with Palestinians who are not even in the territories?

[Hamizrahi] This is an important question. What about the refugees?

[Al-Tarazi] They have not been absorbed in any one framework, and they do not want to be. They want to return to what is theirs. Why should a refugee not live as a foreign Palestinian national in Haifa? If his father left him a house, that house is still there. Why should he be unable to use that house or live there himself? Is it not his personal property?

[Hamizrahi] Is this the right to return?

[Al-Tarazi] This is a nonnegotiable right; otherwise, the situation would be paradoxical. We were told that the Israeli Law of Return is based on something 2,000 years old, but that same law does not apply to a Palestinian who built his house with his own two hands.

Yet the significance of this right includes my right to decide not to return, if that is what I wish. It is something people hold as sacred and which they should be able to decide for themselves. I see no deadline, however, for exercising that right. It must be carried out through a progressive and humane process. I am sure that if Israel withdraws from the territories it conquered in 1967, many people will return to their homes. We will then have to consider whether a Palestinian who was born in Haifa and has property there, but who is a Palestinian national, should be allowed to remain in Israel as a foreign national. This is where I come to the question of Zionism. If you want a "Judenstadt," you are welcome, but this should not prevent foreigners from residing within its boundaries.

[Hamizrahi] Does this mean the issue is negotiable, nevertheless?

[Al-Tarazi] The right is not negotiable, but its exercise is.

[Hamizrahi] Will the intifadah and the confrontation stop?

[Al-Tarazi] This is not a matter for interpretation. The PNC based its resolution on the 1985 UN resolution that confirmed the legitimate right to oppose foreign occupation and condemned terrorism. What we have here is occupation.

[Hamizrahi] Does this include the boundaries of the State of Israel?

[Al-Tarazi] I have said occupation, but it is up to the PNC to determine the exact definition of where the activities will be carried out and of what the occupied

territories are, and I do not know what it intends to do in this regard. I do, however, have full authority to encourage opposition to occupation. I do not foresee any change, but I fear an escalation. It depends on the means of repression Israel uses.

[Hamizrahi] What about your organization's activity in Israel?

[Al-Tarazi] Did the intifadah increase the violence? All that can be said is that it is all one big question mark. There is a good start; there are convincing signs that we are on the road to peace, with only Israel objecting to Resolution 242. I am not pleased with the Americans. What took place was a dialogue, rather than negotiations. 'Arafat sent a letter to the U.S. State Department back in 1986, asking to bring Israel closer to the negotiating table. The United States told him: No.

[Hamizrahi] Is it possible to unite all the Palestinian factions?

[Al-Tarazi] I know Habash. He will not oppose the dialogue with the Americans. It should be noted that Hawatimah, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, who is a Marxist and a Ba'th supporter, and George have not made any ugly remarks. I have known George since childhood; we went to school together. George is currently the opposition leader, and everything is decided by a vote.

[Hamizrahi] What does 'Arafat mean when he says he accepts all the UN resolutions? Does he refer also to the definition of Zionism as racism?

[Al-Tarazi] The resolutions we have adopted are related only to the Palestinian issue. The matter of Zionism as racism falls under the clause dealing with apartheid, ideology, racism, and so forth. Therefore, everything 'Arafat has said is related exclusively to the Palestinians.

[Hamizrahi] What is your opinion of Shamir's unilateral autonomy proposal?

[Al-Tarazi] What does it mean? I do not know what it means; no one does.

USSR's Petrovskiy Links Ties To Conference

TA1712100888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Report from Geneva on interview with Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, by Yig'al Rom; date not given; Petrovskiy's remarks in English—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rom] [Passage omitted] The idea of an international conference was the biggest hit in the UN General Assembly session in Geneva. It was considered the magic panacea for all the ailments of the Middle East, past and present. Once the U.S. decision became public knowledge, the chances that one would be held all of a sudden became a very realistic prospect. This was the gist of a conversation with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, to give but one example.

[Petrovskiy] There is no alternative, you know, to the international dialogue toward the political solution of this matter, and that's why we welcome this decision—though we considered, you know, that today the dialogue for the sake of dialogue is not enough. It is necessary that the dialogue should be the practical results, the political solution, comprehensive political solution of Middle East questions which will provide the safe condition for the existence of the State of Israel as well as other states in the area.

[Rom] The Soviet official also gave something sweet to make the castor oil he tried to talk the Israeli diplomatic echelon into swallowing go down more easily: As soon as the process toward the convocation of an international conference begins, so will a parallel process toward the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. [passage omitted]

[Petrovskiy] As I mentioned already, you know, we consider it abnormal that there is no diplomatic relations with Israel, and as soon as the process of international conference will start, I think the process of reestablishing of diplomatic relations will start, too.

[Rom] The Soviets also accept the novelty expressed in one of the resolutions that a preparatory meeting prior to the convocation of the international conference be held under the Security Council's aegis, thereby launching real steps toward that wonder-working conference. [passage omitted]

Soviet Jewish Emigration Increases in November

TA1812104688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] The Soviets granted exit visas to 3,920 Jews in November, an increase of over 25 per cent compared to the previous month. Sources in Jerusalem noted that the new figures point to a yearly emigration rate of nearly 50,000, the level of the late 1970's. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 18 December in a report by Nadav Shragay on page three quotes Minister of Immigration Absorption Ya'aqov Tzur as saying that his ministry is "completing a plan to absorb 3,000 new immigrant families from the USSR." He said "some 30,000 Jews were expected to leave the USSR in the coming year."

Lahd To Try Failed Assassin; 2 Suspects Released

TA1912155588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has released the uncle and mother of Suhad Bishara, the young woman who fired at SLA Commander General Antoine Lahd.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the two were released after an investigation showed that they had no connection with the act whatsoever.

The woman who attempted to assassinate Lahd is being held at Al-Khiyam Prison and will soon be tried by Gen Lahd, who is recuperating at Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Shomron Decision in IDF Operation 'Endorsed'

TA1612185688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today debated the army's operation in Al-Damur in Lebanon last Friday. Defense Minister Rabin, the chief of staff, and senior officers reported to the committee, which unanimously endorsed Chief of Staff Shomron's decision to withdraw the main force before locating the four missing soldiers who were afterwards rescued.

Rabin Questions Value of Al-Damur Attack

TA1812103788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 88 p 8

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin said on Friday [16 December] that had he known the operation against the Jibril terrorist bases at Al-Damur would have developed the way it did, he would not have given it the go-ahead.

He spoke in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, at a briefing with the participation of Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron, the senior officer in charge of the Al-Damur operation and senior Israel Air Force officers.

He was understood, by MK's [Knesset Members] present, to have been referring to the developments resulting from the death of Sgan-Aluf [Lieutenant Colonel] Amir Me'tal, which disrupted some of the objectives of the operation, even though this need not have been an inevitable consequence of his death, the MKs explained later.

Rabin said he attended the debriefings following the operation and was highly impressed by the way the officers and men assumed full personal responsibility for the details of the operation as it unfolded in practice, and at their readiness for open self-criticism.

The chief of staff analyzed the operation for the committee members and listed the objectives, attained and unattained, in detail.

Shomron said that one strategic by-product of the Al-Damur operation was to drive home to the terrorists the awareness that they were not immune to direct attack from the IDF and that they had to fear more than air strikes.

Mitzna' on Nabulus Deaths, Firing Orders

TA1812183888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The head of Central Command, General 'Amram Mitzna', says the army will make punishments more severe for demonstrators and stone throwers according to the need. In an interview with Israel Television's Arabic language service, Mitzna' said orders for soldiers to open fire can be changed if necessary. He said Arabs in the territories must understand that a stone is a weapon and that security forces will punish stone throwers.

Mitzna' said the preliminary investigation of events in Nabulus on Friday [16 December] in which five Arabs were killed shows that soldiers were attacked with stones in several places by masked youths. He said the soldiers were forced to open fire in self-defense and in order to extricate themselves. Mitzna' said it only became clear afterwards that there had earlier been a funeral which resulted in several incidents.

Establishment of 7 New Settlements Announced

TA1512140988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Matityahu Drobles, head of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department, has announced the establishment of seven new settlements in northern Samaria and in Nahal 'Iron. The new settlements are meant to create a partition between the Arab populations on either side of the Green Line, and to blur the Green Line itself.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during a tour of the sites of the new settlements, Drobles said this was the Israeli people's response to all the talk about establishing a Palestinian state.

Further on Casualties, Incidents In Territories

Casualty Tolls Reported

TA1412155688 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 14 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] On Monday, 12 December, the IDF spokesman reported a total of 250 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure does not include those killed by settlers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of those killed since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] is 342.

Palestinian sources report 435 casualties according to the following breakdown:

—289 killed by IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.

—66 killed by gas inhalation.

—37 killed by beatings and electrocution.

—43 dead of other reasons.

Settler Injured; Convoy Halted

TA1812212188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] A resident of Ginnot Shomron was injured in the face by glass splinters after a stone shattered his car windshield tonight near Qedumim. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

On another matter, the IDF halted a group of Samaria settlers who were trying to reach Qalqilyah in order to meet with the chief of staff. An IDF barrier halted the convoy near the village of Nabi Ilyas, close to 'Azzun. The settlers were equipped for camping out overnight in rough weather.

Settlers Detained in Qalqilyah

TA1912094588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Fifteen settler leaders from Samaria were detained a short while ago by the Qalqilyah police for refusing to evacuate the site where they are holding a sit-down strike at the entrance to the Civil Administration building in town.

This stirred up ferment among the settlers in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent in the territories 'Eran Ben-Porat has been told that many are planning to leave for Qalqilyah now. The leaders of the settlers are still waiting for a meeting with the chief of staff. The exact time has not yet been fixed.

House of Suspect Demolished

TA1812182688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] IDF forces today demolished the house of Louis Husayn 'Abd al-Rahim Sa'ada from Kafr Zibad in the Tulkarm District. 'Abd al-Rahim is suspected of acting, together with youths under his command, against IDF soldiers and local inhabitants whom he suspected of collaboration. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the youths raided villages suspected of housing collaborators, attacked them, and terrorized the villagers.

Military sources say that Al-Rahim was responsible for the printing and dissemination of leaflets of the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the area of Tulkarm. A xerox machine and copies of a leaflet were found near his house, as well as the means for making firebombs. He is also suspected of organizing a military parade in his village about a month ago. This march was filmed by a foreign television crew that was invited especially for the event.

4 Gazans Wounded by IDF

TA1912175288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Four Arabs were wounded by plastic bullets fired by the IDF during disturbances in the Gaza Strip today. The four were transferred to Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. The transportation and commercial general strike in the Gaza Strip is continuing, and only a small number of people went to work in Israel.

3 Arabs Get Prison Terms For Stonethrowing

TA1812185588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] This afternoon two Arabs attacked Mordekhay Hess, a Haifa District Court judge, after he convicted them of throwing stones at Israeli vehicles, and sentenced them to prison terms. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the two defendants from the village of Jisr al-Zarqa threw stones at Egged buses traveling on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway. The judge handed down a 2-year prison term and an additional 2-year suspended sentence. When the defendants heard their sentence they threw heavy files, that were lying on the judge's desk, at him.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 18 December carries a report saying that "the Ramallah military court today handed down a 2-year prison sentence to a 17-year-old youth from the Bethlehem District. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Bassam Na'im Muslim al-Bulbul was detained while using a sling to hurl stones at IDF soldiers."]

Agreement Signed With Hungary on Reducing Customs

TA1612140888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 88 p A12

[Text] The Hungarian Trade Ministry delegation, headed by Director General Istvan Major [name and title as published], is today ending its visit to Israel. The delegation is returning to Hungary having signed an agreement for a mutual reduction of customs taxes on a list of products upon which the two countries will decide in advance.

The Israeli Industry and Trade minister promised his Hungarian colleagues that Israel will encourage and develop trade between the two countries. He also promised that Hungary will be granted the status enjoyed by the EFTA states (a group of European countries which are not members of the EEC, but have a preferential status in their trade relations with EEC countries).

The Hungarians, for their part, promised to assist with the Israeli trade week that is to take place in Budapest in April, and to act toward removing restrictions on Israeli exports to Hungary.

Economic, Agricultural Aid Given to Ethiopia

TA1812102688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem economic correspondent Gad Li'or]

[Text] Israel is providing economic aid to Ethiopia.

It started several months ago following a total 15-year break in relations between the two countries.

At this stage, the Israeli aid is mainly in agriculture, especially in irrigation and improving agricultural yields in Ethiopian arid zones.

A number of Ethiopian economists and agricultural experts recently arrived here for professional courses.

Our correspondent points out that a public meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Ethiopian foreign minister was held in late September 1987.

West Bank Produce Shipped Directly To Europe

TA1612152088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] The first shipment of agricultural produce from Judaea and Samaria, not sent through AGREXCO, was shipped over the weekend to EEC countries. The shipment includes 40 tons of eggplant.

The EEC ambassador in Israel said that there is no intention of harming Israeli agricultural exports to Europe. In an interview with our correspondents Harley Braidman and Elihu Ben-On, the ambassador (Gwen Morgan) said that the EEC has not reduced the Israeli export quota, but has set a separate export quota for the residents of the territories. He expressed the hope that direct exports from the territories would continue without administrative delays.

CPI Up 1.6 Percent; Inflation at 16 Percent

TA1512155688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The consumer price index [CPI] rose by 1.6 percent in November, according to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. [passage omitted]

An inflation rate of 16 percent has been registered since the beginning of 1988. The rate of inflation in the last 3 months reached 25 percent. Treasury officials estimate that the December CPI will be lower. In any event, however, it is already clear that this year inflation will be higher than last year. [passage omitted]

Unemployment Rate Up to 7 Percent in 3d Quarter

TA1912135588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] In the 3d quarter of 1988, the number of unemployed nationwide stands at 118,000. Data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics reveal that the unemployment rate in July through September reached 7 percent, compared to 5.9 percent in the previous quarter.

Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein notes that the first 9 months of 1988 saw a rise in the rate of employment in all branches except industry, in which a drop of 2.5 percent was noted in comparison with the equivalent period last year.

Envoy to Stockholm Presents Credentials

TA1012140988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Dec 88 p 24

[Text] Israel's new ambassador in Stockholm, Moshe Yegar, yesterday presented his credentials to King Carl Gustaf in a ceremony that followed all the pomp and circumstance of royal protocol. Scheduled one day after PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Stockholm meetings and press conference, the Swedish government apparently went out of its way to accord Israel's new ambassador every possible courtesy, including a 20-minute conversation with the king.

KOTERET RASHIT To Close Due to 'Recession'

TA1112183788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 88 p 8

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Text] The proprietors of KOTERET RASHIT decided on Friday to close down the weekly magazine, after rejecting proposals by potential investors interesting in acquiring it. The magazine's final issue will appear this Wednesday and all subscribers will be reimbursed, the proprietors, the Clal concern and YEDI'OT AHARONOT, said. Set up six years ago, the weekly earned a reputation for high-quality reporting and analysis. The proprietors said they had decided to close it down because of the recession plaguing the publishing industry.

Galilee Police Seize Persian Cocaine; 3 Arrested

TA1712070088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the Galilee District police have arrested a Lebanese citizen who was found in the possession of 525 grams of Persian cocaine and a gun. The man is a drug dealer who infiltrated into Israel in the Golan Heights area. He sold the drugs to residents of Al-Ghajar in the northern Golan Heights. The police have so far arrested three villagers, and additional arrests are expected.

Paris LE MONDE Interviews King on PLO

PM1612121488 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with King Husayn by Jean-Pierre Langellier in Paris on 14 December]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan says that he is very satisfied with the change made by the man he respectfully calls "President 'Arafat." Receiving us together with two of our colleagues on the evening of Wednesday 14 December at the Palais Marigny where he stayed during his official visit to France, the Hashemite king heaped praise on the PLO and its leader:

"The Algiers PNC meeting and President 'Arafat's Geneva speech show how responsible the PLO is being. I support 'Arafat's stand. It meets all the demands of the international community. We are full of admiration for the Palestinian people's representatives. We support them and we will defend their cause in a very constructive way."

King Husayn said that current relations between his country and the PLO are "very close." According to him, they were improved by Jordan's "withdrawal" from the West Bank. "Since then, we have felt much more comfortable with each other than we have at any time in the past. Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which have been freed from former suspicions and complexes, are now based on mutual confidence.

In Geneva, President 'Arafat mentioned these very special relations and expressed hope that they can be developed in a confederal framework when the time comes. I also think that this is possible, because these relations are indeed very special. When we develop them further, it will be on very strong foundations."

How many citizens of Palestinian origin does Jordan have? After a brief glance at Zayd al-Rifa'i, his prime minister, who attended the meeting, and two words exchanged in Arabic, the king replied with statistical accuracy: "34.6 percent." That is the official figure put forward by Amman since "legal and administrative" relations between the Kingdom and the West Bank were severed on 31 July. For many years the Hashemite monarchy put forward a much higher figure of 60 percent to justify its claim to the West Bank of the Jordan.

Almost Pathetic Reactions

What about Jerusalem? Jordan has said very little on this delicate subject in recent months. "Our disengagement," Husayn stressed, "has not changed our position on Jerusalem. We have maintained all our religious ties with the Holy City. Once peace is restored, Arab Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine. After all, before 1967, Israel had part of Jerusalem as its capital, did it not?"

The king was certainly hard on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. "His reactions to 'Arafat's speech," he added, "and the attitude they express are very unfortunate, and almost pathetic in a way. If his statements reflect the desire to resort to brute force alone, it would mean that some Israeli officials are living in a world of illusion. Also, in the moral sphere, they are depriving other men of their rights and inflicting suffering similar to that which they experienced in the past."

When it was pointed out to him that Israel's distrust is based, among other things, on the fact that the PLO has not punished any of its more sinister figures, like Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], Husayn placed the ball in Israel's court: "Those who criticize the behavior of some Palestinian leaders ought also to cast a glance at the Israeli scene. If we examined the past of some important figures, we would open a Pandora's box there too. The important thing is that an overwhelming majority of the PNC delegates in Algiers supported their leadership's decisions. The Palestinians have become responsible. Let us hope that the Israelis will be responsible too. We must forget the past and look to the future—a better future."

"I Am Optimistic"

Why did the king think it right to intervene in the recent election campaign in Israel, to the point of being accused of having "voted labor"? "I do not want to interfere in Israeli affairs," he protested. "But I hoped, I still hope, and I will go on hoping for an Israel which will opt for peace, justice, and security for all. It goes without saying that security can only be achieved through just peace."

What about the United States? Husayn refrained from attacking the United States, visibly avoiding dwelling on the subject. Was he already aware of the U.S. decision to open dialogue with the PLO, which was announced several hours later? "I hope," he said, "that U.S. policy in the Near East will improve. I think that it soon will. I am optimistic."

What about France and Europe, what role can they play in the Near East? "I hope that they will do more because the Palestinians have already done more, and so have the Arabs by giving support to the PLO's positive initiatives. Europe must continue what it has started, notably with the Venice declaration. It should support the Palestinians' very positive, very courageous, and very realistic positions."

In April 1988, Jordan bought 12 Mirage-2000 planes from France and took out an option on another 8. "They are very good planes. We are very pleased to have signed that contract. In light of the U.S. Congress' unfriendly attitude, we decided not to buy the military equipment we need for our defense from the United States. We turned to Europe and the Soviet Union."

Husayn, who is an excellent pilot, likes planes. On Thursday morning, at the end of his visit to France, he returned to Jordan at the controls of his Tri-Star. "When you are holding the joystick you concentrate on what you are doing without thinking about anything else," he said with a smile before saying goodbye.

King Husayn Visits General Command 19 Dec

JN1912192288 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the General Command at noon today.

His majesty was received by Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talib and his aides, the commander of the Royal Air Force, and the general inspector.

His majesty met with senior Armed Forces officers in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The general situation in the region was reviewed and issues of interest to the Armed Forces were also discussed.

At the end of the meeting and in light of the new cabinet reshuffle under which Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir has become chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and adviser to his majesty the supreme commander for the affairs of the Arab Army—the Jordanian Armed Forces—His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has issued decrees putting the chief of staff in charge of the Armed Forces. Therefore, his majesty asked Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Talib to exercise this responsibility.

King Expresses Wishes for GCC Success

JN1912195688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening telephoned His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. His majesty greeted his highness the amir of Bahrain and GCC heads of state participating in the ninth GCC summit which started in Bahrain this evening.

His majesty expressed his wishes for their success in their summit in serving their countries' and Arab nations' causes.

His highness the Bahraini amir expressed gratitude and appreciation to King Husayn for his fraternal feelings and pan-Arab stand for the Arab nations' causes.

New Companies Law To Be Applied 'Temporarily'

JN1212110388 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Council of Ministers approved in a session on 10 December under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i the new companies law which will be applied temporarily as of the beginning of next year. The new law was set to cope with the new developments in Jordan, particularly since the old law had been in force for more than 20 years.

The new law includes provisions related to holding companies, joint-stock and limited companies, and exempted companies which are not covered by the previous law. The new law also reduces government intervention in companies. This responsibilty is given to the general assembly of the company which elects the board of directors and holds it accountable.

The new law includes some provisions in line with the spirit of the stage of Jordanian economic adjustment.

Hamdi al-Tabba', minister of industry and trade, has declared that the USSR will be a large market for Jordanian industry as of next year. In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B within the weekly dialogue to be published on Saturday—a dialogue with an official—the minister said that the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee, which will hold its first meeting in Moscow next month, will approve a program of bilateral economic and commercial cooperation under a balanced package or any other arrangement.

He added that Under Secretary Muhammad al-Saqqaf, who will return to Amman today at the conclusion of a visit to the USSR heading a Jordanian delegation, has discussed with Soviet officials arrangements for the committee's meetings.

The minister stressed that this agreement will place before Jordanian industry a new challenge. Small and intermediate industries will particularly benefit more than others from this new market.

He said: In the past we used to import from the USSR and did not export anything to it. Now, we are placed before a big market and a big challenge.

PPSF: 'Arafat Exceeded Limits of PNC

NC1612144388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], has declared that the initiative put forward by Yasir 'Arafat in his address to the UN General Assembly in Geneva was more explicit with regard to recognizing UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 332 than the PNC resolutions.

In an interview which the Voice of the Mountain conducted with him on the 1st anniversary of the uprising, Ghawshah said that the uprising is a dynamic struggle which has expressed the positions of all the sectors and classes of our people's masses and has formed a concrete unity in the face of the enemy.

Shaykh Sha'ban Denounces 'Arafat Conciliation

LD1712094388 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 17, IRNA—Leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban addressing worshippers at Tripoli's Friday prayers denounced Yasir 'Arafat's reconciliation with Zionist and said the move has put a grave responsibility ahead of Muslims.

Further in the sermon he said that finally 'Arafat gave in to Zionist demands and dropped the slogan of 'revolution until victory'. By doing so he trampled upon the blood of Palestinian martyrs, he added.

He stressed that the disgraceful reconciliation of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with the Zionists will never discourage warriors in their anti-Zionist campaign. He added the pro-U.S. and U.S.S.R. regimes of the region and their agents who betray their people will finally be removed and the genuine Islam will prevail despite all conspiracies.

Communists Warn Against More PLO Concessions

NC1612145888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party has warned of the increasing pressure being applied by the United States on the PLO leadership to make further concessions. The party pointed out that the true stand of U.S. imperialism is against the national rights of the Arabs, as well as all other peoples.

A spokesman for the party's Political Bureau contends that the U.S. decision to negotiate with the PLO represents a shift in the original U.S. stand, which had refused to recognize the PLO and the Palestinian identity.

Group Claims Burning of Jewish Center in Denmark

NC1912201888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] In a statement delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut today, an organization calling itself the Jund al-Haqq organization claimed responsibility for burning the largest Jewish center in Denmark. The same organization had earlier claimed the kidnapping of Belgian doctor Jan Cools.

PSP Urges Al-Huss To Expand Government Role

NC1812230088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The PSP Central Committee met today under the chairmanship of party leader Walid Junblatt. [passage omitted] The committee issued a statement saying:

First, the PSP Central Committee calls on the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss to assume the full responsibility for governing in accordance with the Constitution and by virtue of its being the embodiment of both the executive authority of the president and the cabinet. The government should exercise its authority over all the state's departments, institutions, and public services. This is necessary for the government to perform its full duties.

The government should fill the vacancies in public service offices so as to undertake its legitimate political and constitutional role and to meet its national obligations toward the public.

The Central Committee calls for expanding the government so as to enable it to perform the multifaceted tasks of governing. An enlarged government would also allow for the widest possible national representation and participation in the great tasks which the government has to tackle in these fateful times. The government would then be able to fulfill its national role in confronting the secessionist and partitionist entity which has come to being in the eastern section of Beirut. [passage omitted]

Second, the PSP Central Committee calls on national forces immediately to begin to implement the national plan of action which was endorsed at the expanded meeting in Al-Mukhtarah. This plan should be turned into effective organizational structures. The national principles should immediately be turned to deeds in the battle against the Zionist and isolationist scheme. The national forces should merge their fighting military units in regular formations supporting and complementing the national army. The national forces should assume their national role in defending the country against the continued Zionist aggression and in confronting the separatist, secessionist, and partitionist entity. [passage omitted]

Third, the PSP Central Committee supports the establishment of national Palestinian authority over every inch of Palestinian soil that is evacuated by the Israeli

occupation. The establishment of such authority will serve to underline the Palestinian people's right to their land and to mobilize their potential to face up to the schemes of division and political and material liquidation adopted by Israel. The Central Committee calls for turning the slogan of the Palestinian state into a mission of struggle aiming at the escalation of the valiant uprising in the face of the containment and repression attempts. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Al-Huss

PM1912144088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by Ghassan Shirbil in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Shirbil] The ambassadors of some major countries say that the presidential elections could be held shortly, possibly before the end of the year. How would you comment on this?

[Al-Huss] Hitherto we have no information that would enable us to settle the elections date issue. On the contrary, all the facts indicate that the elections are not so imminent.

[Shirbil] So what would be the solution if the elections proved difficult to hold?

[Al-Huss] We believe that the only genuine solution is the election of a president for the Republic and the formation of an accord government that would eliminate the state of partition. But it must be admitted that the elections do face difficulties in terms of programs and individuals.

[Shirbil] If it proves difficult to hold the elections in the near future will you return to the idea of unifying the two governments?

[Al-Huss] This proposal was raised at one point, but experience indicates that conditions are unsuitable for it. If we have assurances that the elections will be held shortly, we will not need to deal with this matter. But if the crisis continues the idea of unifying the procedural authority will be considered, though the proposal has not been accepted and the general situation seems unsuitable for it. Some believe that if agreement is possible on a government, then it is also possible on the presidency of the Republic. So efforts must be focused on the presidential elections.

[Shirbil] Estrangement between the various sectors has increased ever since President Amin al-Jumayyil's term ended on 23 September and the conflict within the government began. Are we approaching a split or partition?

[Al-Huss] We have been trying to avert this possibility since this situation came about, because we understand how serious it is. We have sought to preserve the institutions' unity. We hoped that this situation would not continue long or open the door to the perpetuation of the partition phenomenon. But it has continued longer than we expected. Previously we pursued a particular policy to ensure that the institutions' unity could be guaranteed through the administration's unity, namely, by appointing a single director, even if there were two ministers.

To this end I delegated as many powers as possible to the directors general of my ministries to avoid disputes and splits. But regrettably others have not pursued the same policy. Instead of delegating powers to directors general, the delegation of powers has been abolished.

[Shirbil] General 'Awn's government accuses you of controlling the Central Bank and suspending the funds allocated to the eastern area [of Beirut].

[Al-Huss] There is no problem in the Central Bank. It is pursuing a very wise policy. Contrary to what is being said, the bank is not subject to any pressures. Perhaps in the past some people did try to exert pressure on it, but those in charge did not submit. They are implementing a wise policy with regard to state expenditure. They are trying to reduce this expenditure as much as possible.

[Shirbil] But 'Awn accuses you of using the Central Bank to exert pressure on a certain sector of the citizens.

[Al-Huss] This has not happened, and will not happen. If some regard the Central Bank's presence in the western area as a sword, it is certainly a two-edged sword which we will protect against all pressures. As for the reports that a new governor could be appointed, I believe that such a step would be very dangerous and I cannot imagine anyone taking it.

[Shirbil] Some of your government ministers are openly urging you to expand the government—a measure that would lead to the expansion of the military's government as well. What is your position on this?

[Al-Huss] It is unlikely that we will expand our government, because we consider it a transitional government whose mission is to run the affairs of both the state and the people until the presidential elections are held and an accord government is formed. As for the military's government, we consider it illegitimate, and its expansion will not give it the legitimacy it lacks.

[Shirbil] On more than one occasion Minister Walid Junblatt has criticized your working methods and called for the removal of what he calls unpatriotic elements from the government. How would you comment on this?

[Al-Huss] I refuse to acknowledge at the claim that there are unpatriotic elements in our government. This is something we refuse to discuss or acknowledge.

[Shirbil] Could we know the real reason for the reports of your dispute with Minister Junblatt?

[Al-Huss] This question can be addressed to Minister Junblatt.

[Shirbil] There have been many reports that in the coming months you will assume the position of Arab League secretary general. Has this matter been settled?

[Al-Huss] Some Arab officials have hinted at it. They have discussed it with me, but I have not yet decided on it. I am currently absorbed in Lebanon's anxieties and I think about nothing else.

[Shirbil] The year 1988 has been disastrous for Lebanon. How do you see the approaching year, and what are your hopes?

[Al-Huss] We expect good in the future and hope that this abnormal situation will not continue for long. We have never for one single moment abandoned our belief in our homeland or our hopes for the future. I would like to state frankly that Lebanon can only be one. There would be no Lebanon at all if partitioning took place: God forbid.

Al-Huss Visit to Damascus Said Imminent

PM1912152488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 88 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Optimism About Clear View After Al-Asad Riyadh Visit"]

[Text] Beirut—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri, and [Progressive] Socialist Party [PSP] leader Minister Walid Junblatt will visit Damascus very shortly. They could be accompanied or followed by a delegation representing the Islamic grouping in order to learn the latest on the Arab initiative vis-a-vis Lebanon, especially following Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Riyadh, where he met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister 'Abdallah.

There have been rumors in West Beirut that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni could convene Lebanese deputies before the end of the year in a special session to elect a new president of the Republic now that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and most Lebanese leaders and officials have been informed that the Arab and international opinion identifies the need to elect a new Lebanese president and begin a political reform process to extricate Lebanon from its internal and external ordeal.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned from well-informed sources that the presidential candidates list which the Americans took to Damascus—which is the same list as Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr was assigned to prepare through consultations with Christians deputies and influential Islamic influential—was recently accepted by the Syrians. The Syrians originally voiced certain reservations about it, but influential Arab mediation resolved the matter.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the list will be returned to the Maronite patriarch who, in turn, will hand it over the Chamber of Deputies speaker, who will convene the chamber to elect a "president of accord" from the list. Among the candidates are Michel al-Khuri, Fu'ad Naffa', and Manuel Yunus.

Some Lebanese circles have said that Patriarch Sfayr's list has the approval of all influential elements in Lebanon, in addition to a written ratification by the 29 Christian deputies who met in Bkirki more than once and delegated the patriarch to speak on their behalf.

Al-Huss on Government Freeze of Weapons Purchases

NC1912193688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has said that in order for the elections to be held, what is needed is self-restraint on a wide-scale and by all parties, as well as a minimum measure of national reconciliation and of agreement on certain ideas and programs defining the future image of Lebanon.

Al-Huss said that the government had for a long time frozen allocations for the purchase of weapons for all the brigades of the Army. He noted that the reorganization of the Army brigades can take place without new weapons purchases.

Speaking to the Lebanese paper AL-'ARAB, Al-Huss said: Let this be clear to everyone. The purchase of weapons for the Army must follow an armaments plan, and this plan must in its turn follow a government-defined strategy with clear objectives.

Al-Husayni: Muslims Refuse Syrian-Named President

NC1912213388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni cast doubt on Maronite patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr's initiative. He said that it is not permissible to describe his beatitude's efforts as an initiative.

Al-Husayni declared that the deputies agree on the general principles and on the reforms, and he urged that efforts be made to formulate a charter for national reconciliation and reform.

Al-Husayni, who is the primary advocate of Syrian policy in Lebanon, added that it is Syria's prerogative to state its view on a president who would not pose a threat to its security. It does not have the right, however, to choose a president on behalf of the Muslims. In a statement that

does not reflect his true positions, Al-Husayni added: As Muslims, we refuse to be a Syrian community in Lebanon. We also refuse to be an Egyptian or Palestinian community. He emphasized good relations with the Arabs, particularly with Syria, which, according to Al-Husayni, provides strategic depth for Lebanon.

Ja'ja' Explains Lebanese Forces' Positions

NC1812160088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'Ja' has made a statement in which he explained the Lebanese Forces' position on current issues and their connections with regional powers. He said that the majority of the basic Lebanese parties want the presidential elections to take place, noting that this is evident in the Arab and western support shown for the Bkirki initiative, which was backed by the majority of the Lebanese people but met Syria's subtle rejection.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in its 18 December edition, Ja'ja' said that Syria wants elections to take place according to its conditions and consistent with its interests but does not want any partner in the solution process. He declared that the Lebanese Forces insist on free elections that would open the way for a solution. This, he said, requires that certain Lebanese whose freedom has been crippled be given the freedom to declare their own decisions.

He added: We are determined that no one will force us to hold unbalanced elections. He pointed out that from this premise we feel that Syria is dealing negatively with Patriarch Sfayr's initiative on the need to expand General 'Awn's legal government in order to consolidate the political situation and run people's affairs so that elections can easily take place.

Ja'ja' emphasized that Gen 'Awn shares his views of the Lebanese situation and expects the government to be expanded in the near future.

Asked if he expects a military escalation if the government is expanded, Ja'ja' said: I doubt this in view of the internal balance of power and certain regional and international factors.

Responding to a question on Washington's opposition to the expansion of the government, Ja'ja' said: We must make the decisions dictated by our national interests. Any official, however, must take into consideration the regional and international circumstances, but this does not mean that others should decide our affairs. He stressed the need for the Lebanese to take control of their fateful issues.

On the relations between the Lebanese Forces and Arab countries, Ja'ja' noted that a number of successful contacts took place with Arab countries and contributed, along with sincere Arab efforts, to paving the way for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the Lebanese situation. He said that the Arab countries support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and call for the withdrawal of all foreign armies from Lebanon. The Arab countries are convinced that there is no need to delegate a custodian for the Lebanese because such a custodian may obstruct rather than facilitate a solution.

On the possibility of holding a dialogue between the Christians and Syria, Ja'ja' said: Our stand on the Lebanese crisis is well known, and our convictions will not change. We are ready for a dialogue with any local or foreign party proceeding form our convictions and without any preconditions.

Soviet Ambassador Notes Improving Situation

NC1912122788 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Lebanon Vasiliy Kolotusha has denied that there is a Soviet initiative to solve the Lebanese crisis. He affirmed that his country is making efforts through consultations with Lebanese and regional parties.

Ambassador Kolotusha held a news conference at the Soviet Cultural Center shortly before noon today, in which he spoke about Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the UN General Assembly.

Answering a question, Kolotusha stated that there has been progress in the peace process in the Middle East, noting that there are some obstacles and difficulties which are being resolved.

The Soviet ambassador affirmed that matters in Lebanon are moving toward improvement, but there is need for Lebanese efforts. He drew attention to the existence of local factors and foreign influences in the Lebanese crisis. Kolotusha added that there is a trend in world affairs toward detente, and the international atmosphere will influence the situation in Lebanon.

Fadlallah Discusses U.S.-PLO Dialogue

NC1612145288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the complexities of the Lebanese issue require time to resolve. In an interview with the Voice of the Mountain's program "This Week's Personality," Fadlallah commented on the claims that the Syrian-Saudi summit may lead to holding a presidential election. He said: A person might think that some positive results would appear from this summit, at least with regard to the presidential election.

He added that this would be based on the belief that the summit included one party, Syria, lending effectively strategic depth to the Lebanese issue, and another party

that is an influential Arab political force which provides a backdrop to U.S. policy in view of the fact that it is the prominent feature of this policy in the region.

Fadlallah said he believes, however, that the complexity of the Lebanese question requires a longer time to resolve, remarking that certain arrangements that must be made require some time to activate in a manner that agrees with the results desired by this or that party. He noted: I do not believe the matter carries as much weight as optimistic people imagine. [passage omitted]

Scholar Fadlallah said he believes that the direct U.S. dialogue with the PLO is merely a step on a very long and very far-away road. The step will give rise to statements, headlines, and slogans, but will not lead to any political result soon. Scholar Fadlallah added that the PLO has made concessions in a vague manner sometimes and openly at other times. He added that there is a plan within the international detente policy to move the Palestinian issue toward a breakthrough.

As for solving the Palestinian issue or convening an international conference, however, Fadlallah said he believes that this represents very great complexities on all levels. He said the cause of this is that the Israeli question differs from any other political issue in being supremely complex because Israel, which possesses more than one international cover, insists on its conditions and future ambitions with regard to the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights.

Fadlallah Denies Partition, Wants To Meet Birri

NC1612204788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that the partition of Lebanon is a myth, although all parties are emphasizing it as a fact. He remarked that the current partitionist appearances are part of the game and path to unity.

In an interview which will be published by AL-LIWA' newspaper tomorrow, Fadlallah stressed that the Muslim is closer to the Christian than any other trend in Lebanon, and vice versa. He expressed his expectation that the presidential election will take place after the new U.S. Administration is installed, that is, unless it is possible to reach agreement with this administration before it assumes power.

On another issue, Fadlallah expressed a willingness to meet with Amal leader Nabih Birri without preconditions.

Fatah Said To Support Hizballah in New Clashes

NC1912183888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] According to BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY reports, pro-'Arafat Palestinians recently received manpower, material, and military reinforcements which arrived at the port of Sidon from Tunis as part of efforts to consolidate the power of the Palestinians and Hizballah. The same reports add that the Fatah Movement leaders in the Sidon camps have informed the PLO in Tunis that new clashes will break out between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in the South and that they will stand by Hizballah, which had come under heavy pressure in the southern suburb and West Beirut.

The reports disclosed that the Syrian authorities, which learned about this, secretly dispatched Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an to Sidon, where he held meetings away from the limelight with the Nasirite Popular Organization and leftist parties to convince them to back the Amal Movement or at least be neutral.

2 Amal Fighters Killed in Clash With Israelis

NC1712061888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that two of its fighters have been killed and a third seriously wounded during a clash between an Amal group and a joint force of Israeli troops and their agents between 'Alman and Al-Shumariyah. The movement added that its personnel have checked an advance attempt by enemy forces toward Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier

NC2012112188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying at low altitude in Lebanese airspace at 1226 today.

Egyptian Official Reportedly Visits Damascus

JN1912184088 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—AL-ANBA' has learned that an Egyptian official has visited Damascus following King Husayn's surprise visit to Cairo a few days ago. This visit aimed to dot the i's and cross the t's regarding the resumption of relations between the two countries, which is expected to be declared soon.

Former Tanzanian President Nyerere Arrives 16 Dec

JN1712083088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Dec

[Text] Damascus—Julius Nyerere, former Tanzanian president and chairman of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania, arrived in Damascus at 2230 yesterday on a visit to Syria.

Heading those welcoming him at Damascus International Airport were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, Ba'th Party assistant regional secretary. Also welcoming Nyerere were Ba'th Party Regional Command comrade members, the deputy prime minister for services affairs, and ministers.

Confers With Al-Asad

JN1712142088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at 1030 today received Dr Julius Nyerere, chairman of the South Committee of the Nonaligned Movement emanating from the Harare conference. They discussed the South Committee's activities in the past year and its strategy for making optimum use of resources. They also discussed cooperation among the nations of the South to acheive self-reliance in development.

Departs 18 Dec

JN1812131588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this morning visited Julius Nyerere, chairman of the South Committee of the Nonaligned Movement, at his place of residence in the Guest Palace in Damascus. They completed their discussion of the subjects discussed in their meeting last Saturday.

President Nyerere left Damascus at 1300 this afternoon after a 2-day visit to the country. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, Ba'th Party assistant regional secretary. He was also seen off by a number of Party officials; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; and a number of ministers.

Jerusalem International on 'Economic Crisis'

JN1712154488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Several Druze residing in the Golan Heights who have recently returned from a visit to Syria have said the suffocating economic crisis from which Syria is suffering has been aggravated recently. Syrian citizens are compelled to obtain basic consumer commodities such as bread, sugar, oil, and coffee from the black market because they are not available in shops. Government supervision has been imposed on the prices of commodities sold in these shops.

It has also been reported that the unemployment rate in Syria is relatively low. However, employees receive low wages, which do not secure a decent standard of living. Arrivals from Syria have also said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's regime is still stable and that his opponents refrain from staging street demonstrations just as the Muslim Brotherhood did a few years ago prior to the bloody incidents in the city of Hamah.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Ways To Achieve Peace

JN1612093088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Dec 88

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Palestine cause is not only a cause of a people whose land was usurped and whose sons were rendered homeless but it is also a cause of a nation threatened by the Zionist danger. Hence, the Palestine question has been the Arabs' first cause and the core of Arabs' conflict with the Zionist enemy. Thus, defending the Palestine cause is a defense of the entire Arab existence.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The practical experience gained by Arab strugglers has confirmed that defending the Palestine question and the struggle to liberate the land and regain the rights cannot be achieved through statements and sympathy but through consolidating the militant willpower, adhering to consistent stands, and not relinquishing the nation's right. The paper explains that both concessions and begging through stands and solutions will not bring about the desired peace because genuine and just peace can be extricated, not begged.

Moreover, the path of a just and comprehensive peace, which will secure the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the regaining of the rights and the holy places, is the path of building both strategic parity and a genuine, effective Arab solidarity. This solidarity has become a pressing need to confront the imminent Zionist danger, which further aggravates in case of any Arab weakness.

Afghanistan

USSR, Rebels Hold Talks in Islamabad

LD1912190588 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] London, Dec. 19, IRNA—Another round of talks was held in Islamabad between the mujahidin and Soviet envoys at the Pakistan Foreign Ministry, the Afghan resistance news service, AAP, reported Monday.

At the meeting, held in continuation of the previous rounds, the details of a POW swap were discussed at the request of the Russians, in particular four Russians held by the mujahidin, APP said without elaborating.

In another development it said 26 Afghan troops were killed in a clash between the Mujahidin and Russo-Afghan troops near Baghlan City on 15 December.

AAP also reported 20 government troops were killed in operations carried out by the mujahidin near Kheyr-Khaneh on the Kabul-Jalalbad Highway.

One MI-8 helicopter was also shot down in Nangarhar 14 December.

Elsewhere eight Afghan soldiers were killed when the mujahidin attacked a military post near Jalalabad City on 14 December and an enemy convoy was ambushed near Delaram on 15 December killing a number of troops belonging to the 17th division of Herat, AAP said.

Mujahidin Attack Convoy, Kill 10 Soviet Soldiers

BK1912122888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 19 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin guerrillas have killed 10 Soviet soldiers in an attack on a Soviet convoy in western Ghowr Province, resistance sources said here Monday.

The Soviet military convoy was on its way from Kabul to Herat on Thursday when the guerrillas opened fire with rockets near Farah Rud District killing 10 soldiers, the sources said. They gave no further details.

The sources also said that Soviet reinforcements arrived Thursday in the Kushk Nakhod area in southern Qandahar Province.

The reinforcements, which included some 5,000 troops and tanks, were apparently to be used in Maiwand District near the strategically important city of Qandahar, the sources said.

The mujahidin have been putting heavy pressure on Qandahar in recent weeks.

The Soviets pulled out of Qandahar Province in June during the first phase of their withdrawal from Afghanistan under the Geneva accord signed in April.

Nearly half of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops have left Afghanistan and the remainder should be withdrawn by the middle of February.

State Security Uncovers 12 Missiles Near Kabul

LD1912192288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The State Security Ministry today obtained 12 surface-to-surface missiles from the seventh ward of Kabul city. The BIA military section reports that these missiles were hidden in the area by the (?Shafa) terrorist group attached to Gulbuddin's extremist group. The (?Shafa) group was arrested sometime ago by the state security bodies. During the investigation, group members confessed to hiding the missiles in the seventh ward. The missiles were removed from the area today.

According to another report, this afternoon the UN Good Offices Mission representatives viewed arms and ammunition siezed in the last few days from the (?Shafa) terrorist group Shafa) attached to the Gulbuddin extremists.

'Crushing Blows' Struck Against Gardeyz Rebels

LD1912165388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Citing Armed Forces officials, BAKHTAR reports that Armed Forces units and companies in Paktia Province inflicted crushing blows today on warmongering extremist elements who were trying to disrupt peace and security in the vicinity of Gardeyz by firing heavy weapons.

The report adds that the extremist elements fired 1,700 rounds on the residential areas of Gardeyz yesterday. As a result of this criminal action carried out with the cooperation of foreign advisers, one compatriot was martyred and seven others were injured.

During this treacherous action the communal mosque of Sakhi and some houses and stores were slightly damaged. The Armed Forces took action to prevent the extremists' crimes and, with the people's full support, made an appropriate response to the extremists. As a result, 40 warmongers were crushed and 51 were injured. In addition, five rocket launchers, a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition, and two tractors all belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

Another report says that as a result of the Armed Forces' activities in some parts of Paktia Province yesterday, three extremist elements trying to disrupt peace and security in the vicinity of Khowst major district by firing heavy weapons were crushed, and rockets belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

As a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces yesterday in Nangarhar Province a number of extremist elements were crushed, and three recoilless guns, a rocket launcher, three mortars, and seven hideouts of the enemy were destroyed.

A report from Qandahar Province says that as a result of the activities of Armed Forces units and companies in the vicinity of Daman District, 29 extremist elements were crushed and 27 were wounded. In this operation a ZK-1 gun, a rocket launcher, a DShK, and 27 light weapons belonging to the enemy were destroyed, and a tractor loaded with arms and ammunition was damaged.

According to another report, as a result of mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces yesterday in the vicinity of Feyzabad city, five terrorists belonging to the extremists groups were arrested.

Also as a result of a mopping-up operation in the vicinity of Baghlan city, 6 saboteurs were crushed and 15 were injured.

According to another report, as a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces on the warmongering elements in the surroundings of Mehtarlam city, Laghman Province, (Serarod) district, Nangarhar Province, and Daman district, Qandahar province, the extremists groups and the opposition lost 146 members and 103 were injured.

BAKHTAR's military section says that the internal disagreement between the extremist groups has increased and is causing bloody clashes in various regions of the country. As a result of armed clashes between members of the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi on 16 December in the (Gendak) area of Zabol Province, over the distribution of goods stolen from travelers, 4 members of the Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi group, 2 members of the extremist group of Gulbuddin were killed, and 20 others from the hostile sides were badly injured.

Some 14 members of the extremist groups were killed during an armed clash resulting from internal disagreement in the village of (Esa Khel), Konduz Province, and a number were wounded.

Three armed extremists were killed when their vehicles hit a mine planted by a rival group on the (Hazrat-e Emam) road. As a result of the armed clashes between the extremist groups and the opposition in the vicinity of Jabal, Saraj district, Paryan Province; Koshk district, Herat Province, and Aliabad subdistrict, Konduz Province, 28 members of the hostile groups were killed and 18 were injured.

New Transport, Communications Ministers Appointed
LD1912172788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] A source in the Council of Ministers reports that, at the recommendation of Afghan Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq and with the approval of esteemed President Najibullah, Mr (Khalilullah) has been appointed transport minister and Mr (Mir Azmuddin) communications minister.

Wakil Gives Press Conference in New York
LD2012091388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 19, BAKHTAR—The main goal of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) is to ensure nationwide peace, ending bloodshed and cessation of tension in the country.

This was stated by 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan in a press conference held at the U.N. headquaters in New York recently. Wakil is heading an Afghan delegation at the 43rd sessions of the U.N. General Assembly on Palestinian issue.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is convinced that this noble goal can be reached through the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and strict observance of the Geneva accords. Keeping in view these two main goals, the government of the RA in close cooperation and understanding with friends and international organisations, spare no efforts in the field, stated Afghan foreign minister.

As a result of initiatives and peaceful efforts of the RA and the support of international public, great developments have taken place on national as well as international levels vis-a-vis the situation of Afghanistan and have paved the way for achieving durable peace in our country.

Constructive atmosphere of the session of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries in Nicosia, particularly the process of debates of the 43rd session of the U.N. General Assembly and its resolution in support of honest implementation of the Geneva accords by all sides concerned as well as the attention of the U.N. secretary general about the implementation of the said accords draw the support of international public about the process earlier begun on the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, Wakil added.

President Najibullah, Wakil went on to say, set forth new proposals on convening an international conference about the determination of neutrality status and demilitarisation of Afghanistan, arranging an international comprehensive programme in order to help socio-economic growth of the ocuntry as well as setting up of a mechanism for ensurance of international guarantees for the defence of human rights including establishment of a broad based coalition government acceptable to all sides concerned.

While touching upon the fresh proposals of Mikhail Gorbachev general secretary of the CPSU CC, and president of the Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet set forth at the 43rd sessions of the U.N. General Assembly on the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, we support these proposals aimed at enforcement of complete armistice from February 1st, 1989, stopping all offensive operations, stopping the delivery of weapons to warring sides and sending U.N. peace-keeping forces to Kabul and other strategic cities, they are with full conformity of plans of political course of the government of the RA and the spirit of the 43rd UN general assembly resolution regarding Afghanistan and warmly welcome them.

So far, Wakil added, as you aware of the fact that, the leaderships of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union spare no efforts in the field, we wish that, the new leadership of Pakistan, for paying serious attention to the high interests of the people of that country and the Muslims of the region, works according to this previous expressions in support of the implementation of the Geneva accords, take practical steps in the field. By all sided realisation of the accords, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also fulfills its historic contribution for the normalisation of the situation inside and around the RA as well as the improvement of relations between the two Muslim countries, Wakil stressed.

While positively evaluating recent international developments in connection with the situation around Afghanistan, we are convinced that the talks of Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR's ambassador to the RA with the representatives of the "seven alliance" took place in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, as a result of previous understanding and cooperation between the RA and the USSR for the ensurance of peace, showed once again that, the basic, reasonable and logical way for the solution of issue is dialogue and negotiations.

The U.N. community has witnessed the fact that, RA and USSR spare no efforts for the realisation of national reconciliation policy as well as strict observance of the implementation of the Geneva accords, we want from the other side to adopt similar approach in the field. we, as in the past, are in favour of starting direct or indirect talks with all opposition forces, including "seven alliance" in Peshawar and "eight alliance" in Iran, followers of former king, oppositon commanders inside and outside the country, without any condition, to ensure peace and reach national accord, to restore relation with our neighbours, particularly Pakistan and Iran and to support constructive strivings for reaching sacred goals of the Afghan people as well as Muslims of the region, Wakil concluded.

India

Parliament Passes Bill To Lower Voting Age

BK2012092788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Parliament has passed the Constitution 62d Amendment Bill, seeking to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 years. The Rajya Sabha adopted the bill unanimously with 201 votes in favor and none against. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha also unopposed on the 15th of this month. The Rajya Sabha was taking up the second reading of another major legislation, the Representation of the People Amendment Bill, when reports last came in.

Earlier, replying to the discussion on both the bills, the minister of state for law and justice, Mr H.R. Bhardwaj, ruled out state funding of elections and said that the election commission had never suggested full funding. Can you reduce the menace of money power by state funding, when money comes from all directions, he asked the opposition. Mr Bhardwaj asserted that electoral reforms have been introduced by the government with a view to developing value-based politics and to give the country a stable democracy.

He said these reforms are a landmark as at one stroke nearly 5 crore young voters are being brought into the electoral process by reducing the voting age. Mr Bhardwaj said 13 of the 16 recommendations of the election commission on electoral reforms had been met in the Constitution amendment bill. The other three recommendations, which include elimination of nonserious candidates, are under government's consideration. The security deposit amount can be raised for discouraging nonserious candidates.

The minister expressed happiness that the entire house has supported the provisions for debarring communal political parties and economic and social offenders from contesting elections. Such political parties are a grave danger to democracy, secularism and the system as a whole, he added. The minister did not agree with an opposition suggestion that the election commission should have an independent secretariat.

He asserted that by bringing all the officials, including those from the state governments performing election duties under the control of the election commission, we can strengthen the hands of the commission for free and fair conduct of polls.

French Defense Minister Meets Gandhi, Pant, Rao

BK1812035088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] The defense minister of France, Mr Jean Pierre Chevenement, arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a 4-day official visit.

The visiting dignitary called on the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and the minister for external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. He discussed with them matters of mutual interest. The defense minister also met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Rajiv Gandhi, Delegation Pay Visit to PRC

For reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the PRC, including a welcome by Premier Li Peng, see the Near East & South Asia subdivision of the International Affairs division of the 19 December China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Officials Destroy Marijuana Plants in Tamil Nadu

BK1812034688 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, ganja [marijuana] plants worth over 38 crore rupees have been destroyed by officials of the central excise and narcotics wing in Anna District. The officials had to open 10 rounds of fire during the 3-day operation, as the cultivators put up a stiff resistance. The officials also seized 4.7 tons of ganja packed in 203 bags.

Heroin Seized From Pakistani Nationals

BK2012044188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has seized 20 kg of heroin worth 20 crore rupees from a Pakistani national in the Anupgarh sector in Rajasthan. Two Pakistani nationals fired at the BSF patrol party when challenged. In the return fire one of them was killed while the other managed to escape.

Iran

Rafsanjani To Have Ordered IRGC Executions

TA1912083088 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] A member of the IRGC who recently sought asylum outside the country has revealed that the executions of recent months have been and continue to be carried out at the insistence of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The executions at the IRGC started after the Majles speaker escaped a second assassination attempt organized by some IRGC officials and commanders. The guards attacked another car instead of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's in front of the Majles. Following an investigation of the incident, more than 150 IRGC commanders and department heads were dispatched to face the execution squads.

'Arafat Accused of 'Selling Out' Cause

LD1912185888 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Giving away parts of Palestine will not lead to any recognition of Palestinian rights as some misconceive, but it is a plot to sell-out of the 40 year struggle of Palestinian Muslims, said Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani today.

"Since the Intifadah in occupied Palestine is gaining new dimensions there is an effort to overshadow it", said Lavasani who participated in the U.N. General Assembly session in Geneva, which saw PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat selling out the Palestinian cause.

On Iran's viewpoints at the session he said "the Islamic Republic believes that all Arab and Palestinian lands should be freed from occupation, and Palestinians should regain the sovereignty of their usurped homeland in its entirety.

"Mere talk of so-called sovereignty over some fragments of the Palestinian land is meaningless," added Lavasani.

Iran rejects U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Palestinian issue said the Foreign Ministry deputy for international affairs, and noted the said resolutions refer to Palestinian Muslims as 'refugees' but recognize the illegal existence of the Zionist entity on Palestine proper.

On Iran's rejection of U.N. plan, Lavasani said it calls for the dissolution of Palestine and is therefore not acceptable to the Islamic republic.

"What we are basically against is the Zionist entity and any talk about granting it legal status and recognition is unprincipalled and immoral" he said noting that both Palestinians and the Zionists are recognized by the U.N. resolutions.

Velayati Receives UK Message on UN Support

LD1912114188 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati received a message from his British counterpart Sir Geoffrey Howe pledging the U.N. Security Council's support for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598.

The message was delivered Sunday by Britian's Charge d'Affaires Gordon Pirie who reopened the British Embassy here two weeks ago after eight years.

"In this message it has been stressed that Britain along with other permanent members of the Security Council will strive for the fair implementation of Resolution 598," the Foreign Ministry's Public Relations Office said. It did not give more details.

Peace talks between Iran and Iraq have reached virtually nowhere during three rounds of negotiations since the August ceasefire. Talks are due to resume next in Geneva but a date has not been fixed.

"I explicitly say that if we want to have the 4th round of the peace talks we should guarantee this round would be useful or else we will be wasting our time," Foreign Minister Velayati said at the end of his visit to China Saturday.

Iran has demanded the full point-by-point implementation of Resolution 598 which calls first for the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders.

Iraq while still occupying more than 1,000 sq kms of Iranian territory has called for the dredging of the Arvand River, which it calls the Shatt al-'Arab, as a preconditon for the implementation of the resolution which does not refer to the river issue.

Last seek Iraqi forces breached the ceasefire southwest of Ahvaz in the southern front, martyring two soldiers and wounding four others.

GCC Leaders Meeting 'Under New Conditions'

LD1912133488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, dear listeners: Today's meeting of the leaders of the six-member GCC in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, is being held under circumstances in which new conditions have been established in the region. Since 1981, when the GCC came into existence, the region has witnessed one of the biggest wars of contemporary times. For this reason, in the eight previous meetings of the council's leaders, the imposed war and its regional consequences were at the top of the agenda.

Despite the fact that during the past 8 years the necessary unity of opinion has been lacking between the council's members over various military and economic issues, the countries did coordinate their actions with regard to mutual security measures and support for the Iraqi regime during the war, with the effect that those countries' financial, political, and military support for the Iraqi regime and the invitation of some of them for foreign fleets to militarily intervene in the Persian Gulf was a major factor behind the darkening of relations between some of those countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In view of the fact that a cease-fire in the imposed war was declared 4 months ago, it would seem that the current meeting of GCC leaders in Manama will differ fundamentally from other meetings. In last year's GCC leaders' meeting in Riyadh, the participants called for the implementation of the clauses of Security Council Resolution 598, and they backed the ending of the war. However, now that the resolution has been accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, only a part of its first clause—that is, the establishment of cease-fire on the fronts—has been implemented.

On the other hand, the tripartite peace talks in Geneva and New York have demonstrated that the Iraqi regime does not want the articles of Resolution 598 to be implemented, and by means of the adoption of negative and unreasonable methods, it hopes to prevent their implementation. Bearing in mind that the persisting in such behavior may continue to make the current ceasefire weak and tenuous, the need for the implementation of the resolution has been repeatedly stressed by some of the council's members. In line with this fact, it seems that the GCC leaders in Manama will collectively stress the need for the implementation of Resolution 598 and the continuation of the peace talks.

The adoption of such a stance by the GCC leaders could be interpreted in a negative sense with respect to the Iraqi regime's current policy. At the same time, it would be considered as a factor toward bringing the council's views closer to those of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the establishment of a real and lasting peace in the region. On that basis, and in view of the recent developments in the region, it is epxected that the decisions of the current GCC leaders' meeting will differ fundamentally from the council's previous decisions.

It is said that those countries would like to use their influence in order to set Resolution 598 into motion, and that they believe that the threat of war and insecurity will persist in the region until a peace treaty is signed. On previous occasions GCC members have also made efforts to guarantee the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

While the current wish of GCC members is the implementation of Resolution 598, the GCC is capable of taking steps, through the use of its other capacities, to strengthen regional peace and to remove the problems which existed during the war. Another issue which could be of importance in the Manama meeting is the future of relations between Persian Gulf littoral states and the Islamic Republic of Iran. So far the council has had a bipolar policy toward Iran.

Some members have consistently given priority to friendship and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, while another group has advanced to the point of severing ties and undertaking disagreeable and suspicious actions. It is expected that, in view of the new regional and international circumstances, the council's members will arrive at a unified policy with respect to their relations with Iran. The realization of this could be the harbinger of a brighter future for the region's stability and security, as well as for positive and effective cooperation between Persian Gulf countries. [passage omitted]

Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed With FRG

LD1812183388 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Federal Republic of Germany have signed a protocol on mutual economic cooperaton, following talks between an Iranian economic delegation and West German officials in Bonn.

The delegation, led by the Finance Ministry's director-general for foreign economic relations Amin Daliri, returned home Sunday at the end of a six-day visit to Bonn.

Upon arrival, Daliri said the objective of the visit was to make preparations for next spring's talks in Tehran between the two countries' ministers of economic and financial affairs.

He said among other topics discussed by the two sides were contribution of West German companies to Iran's reconstruction projects, mutual granting of credit facilities for execution of projects in Iran and gradual purchase of Iranian crude oil in a long-term period by the West Germany.

Daliri said Tehran and Bonn are interested in implementing the agreements reached in 1975 and 1976. This proves there are ample ground for expanding bilateral cooperation, he concluded.

Islamic Students Group Opposes Foreign Borrowing
LD1912212588 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA - The Islamic Students Associations of Tehran University and the Medical Sciences University have come out in opposition to the idea of foreign borrowing to finance part of Iran's reconstruction effort.

It said the international banks and creditor countries were "essentially colonialist, profit-motivated and dominance-seeking."

In any case "can (Iran) fight America and the Soviet Union with the capital and facilities of the colonialist countries?" it asked in a statement.

The issue of foreign loans and credits has been surfaced since the August ceasefire with Iraq in connection with plans to rebuild the country.

Iran has not borrowed from external sources since the 1979 Islamic revolution even during the war when it was under most pressure to meet the costly needs of the combatants and manage state affairs.

The students said the issue had to be dealt with according to the "explicit and clear" guidelines from Imam Khomeyni or else it could have "unpleasant consequences".

A Majles deputy two weeks ago claimed that the imam had angrily rejected the idea of foreign loans when a number of deputies wrote to him and asked for advice.

The claim has been neither confirmed or denied by the imam's office.

Mines Minister Leaves for Talks in DPRK
LD1812205288 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi Sunday headed a technical delegation to Pyongyang for a 7-day visit.

Ayatollahi told reporters minutes before his departure that he carries President 'Ali Khamene'i's message for head of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (KDRP) Kim Il-song.

The objective of the visit, he noted, is to expand Tehran-Pyongyang technical cooperation in non-ferrous metals.

Ayatollahi's deputy Hoseyn Hashemi is in Pyongyang since December 11 to make arrangements for the minister's official visit.

New Oil, Gas Discoveries Boost Reserves
LD1812134588 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Explorations in southern oil fields have added 10 billion barrels to Iran's proven crude oil reserves and led to the discovery of major natural gas fields, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh announced Sunday.

He also said Iran hoped to install oil drilling platforms in the Caspian Sea with Soviet help next year.

The new oil field near the Mond Mountain southeast of the port of Bushehr is 16 kms wide and 90 kms long making it "one of the country's richest oil reserves" he said.

He estimated that it contained about 10 billion barrels of "very heavy crude " with an API (American Petroleum Institute of scale of relative density) of 14 to 16 in one area and 8 in another.

Nearby in the Kheyrabad area 20 kms east of Behbahan "very light and quality crude" with very high pressure was discovered on 1 December at the depth of 2,167 meters at the field's first of three layers.

Aqazadeh said the first layer contained at least 200 million barrels and could produce 40,000 barrels a day.

On oil exploration in the Caspian Sea, the minister said studies of the sea bed had been completed and points where drilling rigs would be erected had been specified.

"We hope to put up the drilling platforms next year and (open) the first exploratory well and this we are doing with the cooperation of the Soviets" he said.

He added that contracts were being prepared to enable Iran to have its own "independent drilling platform" and a shipyard to build support vessels. He did not say with which domestic or foreign partner the deal was being arranged.

Aqazadeh also revealed that a major natural gas field had been discovered in the southern coastal region of Aslaviyeh [name as received] near Kangan 270 kms southeast of Bushehr with a total area of 904 sq. kms.

The new field, whose reserves had yet to be exactly calculated, was drilled at two points on the western side, one of which had been proven to have sweet natural gas that did not require refining.

"If both wells contain sweet gas, our country's gas reserves would increase to a very large extent," he added.

In addition the "Shorjeh Day" [name as received] well in the Khqan Giran area 25 kms. east of Sarakhs on the Soviet border in northeastern Iran had reached sweet gas and could produce 20 to 25 million cubic feet per day. Aqazadeh was not clear on whether the well was actually operational.

Musavi Chairs Steel Production Meeting

LD1812153488 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—The war-devastated Ahvaz steel plant is expected to start preliminary operation in early 1368 (mid 1989) following a special meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

The meeting also attended by ministers of mines and metals, energy, plan and budget, heavy industries, higher education and the central bank decided to form a committee that would be in charge of coordinating efforts to reopen the plant as soon as possible.

The plant's initial production would be 550,000 tons of steel bars per year, the officials also decided.

Official capacity is 1.5 million tons of steel bars per year and it is predicted that this would be achieved in early 1369, (mid 1990), the Prime Ministry's public relations office said.

The prime minister visited the giant Mubarakeh steel project near Esfahan last week and expressed hope that the complex would start production earlier than scheduled.

The Esfahan steel plant is currently the only operating steel factory in the country.

Ministry Issues Statement on Parties Law

LD1812102188 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—The law outlining activities of political parties and societies is to go into effect next week, said the Interior Ministry in a statement issued Sunday morning.

The statement called on all those interested in forming parties to submit their applications to the ministry from December 30, 88 to March 20, 89 for legal considerations. Upon evaluation of the applications special permits will be issued for the eligible applicants, it added.

It also called on all parties and societies which have so far functioned outside the framework of law to take necessary measures for legalization of their group by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 89). Otherwise, activities of such parties will be stopped, said the statement.

The statement added that execution of the law had so far been delayed due to war conditions.

Article 26 of the constitutional law states, "parties, associations, political groups and trade unions and Islamic or recognised religious minorities societies shall be free, provided they do not violate the principles of independence, liberty, national unity and Islamic standards and the foundation of the Islamic republic. No person shall be forbidden nor forced to participate in any of them."

Majles Votes Down Bill on Financial Accountability

LD1912192388 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—The Majles voted against a bill proposed by a number of deputies demanding the income of all officials from the leadership down to heads of state companies to be investigated for any impropriety.

Those rejecting bill said it was too wide-ranging, required a vast and costly legal administration and in any case other laws had covered the subject.

Some said the bill was "politically" aimed at discrediting the government and exonerating private sector profiteers.

"In our view this bill can be the best and healthiest law and channel to prevent abuses," said three-times Majles representative Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Movahedi Savoji who supported the bill.

"We know that more than 90-95 percent of our officials are clean and honest... (but) this bill is being put forward to stop baseless accusations against individuals, to protect the honor and dignity of the state."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was asked to use his powers as speaker to stop the "unconstitutional" bill said the bill was a piece of "political work" but was not clearly against the constitution.

He supported the opposition's view that it would require a large administation to look control the financial status of hundreds and thousands of officials every year. Article 142 states: "The Supreme Court shall verify the assets of the leader or members of the council of leadership, and that of the president, prime minister, minister, their wives and children, before or after appointment, so as to ensure they have not been augmented unjustly."

The bill went further, adding judges, commanders of the armed forces, provincial governors, bank managers and heads of state companies and others. It called on local prosecution offices to investigate each of them and report any illegality to the judiciary for prosecution.

"The wide scope of the bill has soiled Article 142. It has included so many lower ranking officials that it has taken away the power and effectiveness that Article 142 must have," said Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Amid Zanjani in opposition.

But 'Abdullah Hejrati Qazvini said ten years after the revolution some who had suffered in the fight agianst the shah now "have a changed attitude".

"While the poor are getting poorer elsewhere wealth is being piled up. Why is this and through what channels is it happening," he asked.

On the other hand another three-time deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat said the bill was primarily aimed at exonarating the private sector.

"What they are trying to say here is that whoever is a thief and under question is... a minister and a governor but if the private sector comes and does whatever it likes and steals whatever it wants we should not do anything about it," he said.

Those in favour of the bill called for an open ballot vote but this was opposed by the majority and the bill was rejected in a stand up vote Sunday.

Majles Rejects Plan on Constitutional Clause

LD1912210488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in today's open session of the Majles, a legal scheme for the implementation of Clause 142 of the Constitution was reviewed. The scheme was not ratified, and was rejected.

Council Examines Lorestan Election Irregularities

LD1912183088 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—The Council of Guardians which supervises elections detailed wide irregularities and illegal actions which led it to reject the result of the recent Majles by-election in Kouhdasht [place name as received], Lorestan Province.

People supporting one candidate had been beaten up, farmers had been given incentives by one candidate, and temporary teachers had been threatened that they would not be fully employed unless they voted for a particular candidate, it said.

The council's investigations also showed that poll officials had worked slow in the morning so that most of the voting took place at night which reduced the supervisors ability to control the voting and some villages in the constituency had not been given voting boxes.

Following the irregularities in Kouhdasht Majles deputies had called on the council to look into the constituency whose results had been rejected three times in the last two Majles elections.

Meanwhile a scroll signed by more than 10,000 people in Kouhdasht was delivered to the daily Keyhan supporting the council's decision to nulify the October by-election result which was won by a candidate with a majority of 3,046 votes.

The council did not specify whether the winning or losing candidate or both were involved in illegal activities to influence the result.

Successful Operation Against Smugglers in Kerman

LD1912154888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Continuing the decisive and relentless fight against merchants of death, the Kerman Province Revolution Guards Committee carried out a well-planned and coordinated operation on the heights between Jiroft and Bam, and they destroyed a large convoy of international narcotics' smugglers.

In an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Kerman, the commander of Kerman Province Revolution Guards Committee and the Abuzar tactical headquarters said: The members of the convoy had crossed the country's eastern borders and were stationed on the Jabal-e Barez heights. They engaged in selling and distributing large quantities of narcotics, as well as creating disturbance and committing armed robbery.

After their position was pinpointed, they were surrounded and eventually killed or captured. He continued: The personnel of the 101st Imam Husayn Battalion from the Abuzar tactical headquarters, after a long trek in the

difficult Jabal-e Barez heights, surrounded the smugglers and armed insurgents, killing 10, including the leader of the convoy, injuring a number of them, and arresting 5 local smugglers who had been acting as their contacts.

He added: Preliminary identification revealed that the smugglers killed in the clash had been leaders of insurgents and a large band of narcotics smugglers which had previously engaged in numerous clashes with security forces in Sistan and Baluchestan and Kerman Provinces. During the clash, which lasted many hours, several light and medium weapons, including RPG-7's, and thousands of rounds of ammunition, eight assorted vehicles and motorcycles, and dozens of kilograms of opium were discovered and seized.

Thanks to accurate reconnaisance and planning in the operation, and the high combat capabilities of the forces, the Committee Guards suffered no casualties. The decisive and relentless efforts of the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards to follow the plans and orders of the Kerman Province Maintenance Council will continue until all professional smugglers in the province are totally destroyed.

Nepal

Geology Department Records Earthquake 16 Dec

BK1712152188 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] An earthquake measuring about 5 on the scale [not identified] was recorded at 0500.15 [2345.15 GMT] yesterday morning by the Department of Mines and Geology. Seismographical record shows that the epicenter of the quake lay somewhere in the neighborhood of Mugu Village in Mugu District.

Pakistan

Bhutto Discusses Assembly Dissolution With Khan

BK1912143888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met in the Presidency in Islamabad today. They discussed the situation arising out of the dissolution of the Baluchistan assembly by the chief minister and the governor of the province. Before this act of dissolving the assembly, neither the president nor the prime minister was apprised of it.

A press release issued from the Presidency says, at the meeting it was decided that the president would submit a reference in the Supreme Court under Article 186 of the Constitution in connection with the rights of expenditure from the provincial (?coordinated) funds. The Law Ministry has been directed to give final shape to the draft of this reference and to submit it in the Supreme Court at the earliest.

During this meeting, the special assistant to the prime minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Babar; the federal minister for law, justice and interior affairs, Aitzaz Ahsan; the special assistant to the prime minister in legal affairs, Syed Ifteqar Hussain Gilani; and the federal secretary for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid were also present.

Discusses Issue With Opposition

BK1912162488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Opposition leaders Maulana Farlur Rahman and Nawab Mohammad Akbar Bukti called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Rawalpindi this evening and exchanged views with her on the situation in Baluchistan. They submitted a two-point formula to the prime minister, including the amendment to the Constitution, which can be submitted to amend a clause in Article (?112) of the Constitution in order to restore the Baluchistan Assembly. In their proposal they also stressed that keeping the drawbacks of this action in view, the government itself should take this matter to the court.

The prime minister informed the opposition leaders that the federal government was never a party in any of the disputes in Baluchistan and thus it never interfered in the affairs of this province. Therefore, the federal government was not at all connected with the dissolution of the assembly. The prime minister also informed them that the solution to this issue is present in the Constitution which provides that the affected party can go to the court and get the remedy or it can get the mandate of the people of the province through elections.

On the amendments to the Constitution the prime minister said the opposition leaders proposed for amendment in segments the government of Pakistan People's Party is not in favor of it. She said the government would like the eighth amendment repealed in its totality. She informed the opposition leaders that the president is submitting a reference in the Supreme Court on the Baluchistan budget, because the governor dissolved the provincial assembly and the Supreme Court can consider the issue of dissolution of the assembly on its own.

The prime minister was assisted by her special assistant, Retired Major General Nasirullah Babar, and special assistant on legal affairs, Syed Ifteqar Hussain Gilani. A prominent politician Malik Mohammad Qasim was also present during the meeting.

Khan To Seek Court Verdict on Baluchistan Issue

BK2012002788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1900 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 19 (AFP)—Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan decided on Monday to ask the Supreme Court to rule on who is authorised to release state funds in Baluchistan following the provincial governor's controversial dissolution of the state assembly.

Official sources said the president would soon ask the country's highest court for a ruling on "the authorization of expenditure from the provincial consolidated funds in Baluchistan" following the dissolution of the provincial assembly by Baluchistan Governor Muhammad Musa Khan on Thursday.

The Associated Press of Pakistan reported that Mr. Khan made the decision after a meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Analysts said the Supreme Court would have to rule on whether dissolution of the assembly was legal when it decides who is now responsible for disbursing provincial government funds.

The Supreme Court can either authorise a Baluchistan caretaker government to disburse provincial government funds, or rule that there is no need to do so because the assembly was dissolved illegally, they said.

Official sources said the government had instructed the Law Ministry to prepare a draft and file a constitutional petition in the country's highest court as soon as possible.

Informed sources said the petition could be moved in the next two days. The decision of the Supreme Court is binding on all parties.

Ms Bhutto was quoted as telling Fazalur Rahman, leader of the religious Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam (JUI), and Nawab Akbar Bugti, head of the opposition Baluchistan National Alliance (BNA) that the Supreme Court alone "may consider the question of the dissolution of the Baluchistan assembly."

Observers here said her government had adopted indirect methods to present the case before the court in a bid to defuse a crisis exacerbated by the opposition's announcement that it would not take the matter to the top court.

The dissolution of the assembly sparked a crisis, with the parliamentary opposition demanding its reinstatement and saying it would boycott the budget session in the National Assembly until the matter was resolved.

Ms Bhutto also announced that a care-taker government, replacing the last Baluchistan Chief Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali, a member of the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) would be set up by Thursday.

Mr. Khan has said he would announce a schedule for new elections in Baluchistan at the end of the month.

The JUI and BNA, opposition parties in the province, have claimed they had the support of 23 assembly members who had wanted to bring a no-confidence motion against Mr. Jamali to demonstrate a majority on the floor of the house.

The opposition leaders have demanded that a proviso be added to Article 12 of the Constitution to enable the dissolved assembly to be reinstated.

Article 112 was invoked by the Mr. Khan in his decision to dissolve the Baluchistan assembly on the advice of Mr. Jamali, who had polled 21 votes out of 43 in a December 2 poll for chief minister in Baluchistan.

They opposition said Mr. Jamali's advice was aimed at pre-empting a possible no confidence motion against him.

Opposition parties in the National Assembly have accused the government of of connivance and rejected Ms Bhutto's statement that she was not consulted by the governor. She has said he acted constitutionally.

Mr. Bugti and Mr. Rahman have urged Ms Bhutto "to concede malafide of the action" and herself seek a court verdict on the governor's action.

Official sources quoted Ms Bhutto as saying her government was opposed to piecemeal changes in the Constitution and had suggested instead a package seeking to repeal the 8th Constitutional Amendment.

The amendment, enacted by tha late President General Mohammed Ziaul Haq, validated his martial law acts and gave unlimited powers to the president.

General Zia, before his death in an August plane crash, used these powers to dissolve the National and Provincial Assemblies on May 29.

Sri Lanka

Presidential Election Returns Show Premadasa Ahead

Premadasa Maintains Lead

BK2012061188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0535 GMT 20 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Results of 119 [out of 182] polling divisions:

Mr R.Premadasa (UNP)—1,491,481 .... 50.7 percent

Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike (SLFP)—1,319,919 .... 44.81 percent

Mr Ossie Abeygoonesekara (SLMP)— 133,202 .... 4.5 percent

Rejected [Votes] — 53,780 .... 1.8 percent

Total Polled —2,998,382 ....51.3 percent

Premadasa's Lead Narrows

BK2012065088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 20 (AFP)—Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa saw his lead narrow Tuesday [20 December] as counting continued in the Sri Lankan presidential election.

With 131 of 182 constituencies reporting by 11:21 a.m. (0551 GMT), Mr. Premadasa had 50.7 percent of the vote, against 45 percent for former Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike, candidate of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), official figures showed.

Analysts said the race looked close, and could not be called until later in the day. To win outright a candidate must get a minimum of 50 per cent of the ballots plus one vote. Leftwing hopeful Ossie Abeygoonesekera of the Sri Lanka Mahajana (People's) Party was in third position with 4.4 percent.

Turnout of the 9.4 [as received] electorate was officially put at 53 per cent for the constituencies counted. [passage omitted]

Premadasa Heading for Victory

BK2012095088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0906 GMT 20 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—With 160 of the results from the 182 polls divisions reported, Prime Minister R. Premadasa, the United National Party candidate, maintaining a steady lead right from the start, was heading for victory with a percentage of over 50 per cent of the votes cast. The number of votes cast at yesterday's poll was about 60 per cent islandwide.

A significant victory was gained by Mr. Premadasa when he won the Bulathsinhala electorate which was represented in Parliament by former finance minister, Ronnie de Mel. Mr. de Mel left the UNP to rejoin the SLFP which he had left in the pre-1977 period to join the UNP.

Other significant victories were at Mulkirigala, Belliata Tissamaharama in the southern district of Hambantota.

Mr. Premadasa's biggest victory was in the Colombo central electorate which he represented in Parliament, obtaining 65.8 per cent of the 90,971 votes and a majority of over 32,000.

Mrs. Bandaranaike's highest percentage poll was at Attanagalla, the electorate she earlier represented in Parliament, registering a poll of 60.1 per cent of a total of 60,210.

Sri Lanka Mahajana Party [SLMP] candidate Ossie Abeygoonesekara was trailing his rivals with only a little over 4 per cent voting for him. The SLMP candidate Ossie Abeygoonesekara had his best support in the north and east.

President Jayewardene in a broadcast made this afternoon over the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation appealed for peace and said he would impose a curfew after the final results were announced as a precautionary measure.

Police reported the situation quiet today, islandwide. No serious incidents had been reported.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0242 GMT on 20 December reports: "Officials said polling was moderate to heavy in most urban areas, but slow in remote areas and in the troubled north and south. In Southern Province, 49 polling stations with a total 160,000 registered voters did not open because polls officials could not reach them. Should the leading candidate have less than a 160,000-vote majority, a new vote would be organized for the 49 stations.

The province is a stronghold of the militant anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which had warned voters to stay away or risk death. At least 13 voters were killed Monday in seven separate attacks on polling stations in Central, Northcentral and Southern Provinces blamed on the JVP."]

Parliament Dissolved; Election Schedule Announced

BK2012110688 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene, by virtue of the powers vested in him by the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, has issued the proclamation dissolving the Parliament.

The election of members of the new parliament will be held on the 15th of February 1989. The new parliament will meet on the 9th of March 1989. Nomination papers will be received by the returning officers during the specific nomination period between the 30th of December 1988 and the 6th of January 1989.

This proclamation was issued at 1110 [0540 GMT] today, the 20th of December 1988. The dissolution of Parliament is effective from this time.

Troops on 'Red Alert' for Post-Election Violence

BK2012054088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 20 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's elite rapid deployment troops were moved to strategic areas Tuesday [20 December] amid fears of post-election violence after 30 people were killed during polling Monday, a military spokesman here said.

"Judging by what happened yesterday, we can expect some trouble after the final result is out. We are on our toes," the spokesman said, adding that troops had been ordered to use maximum force to quell any violence in the wake of the presidential election. He said thousands of elite soldiers backed by helicopters were on red alert after unprecedented violence Monday left 30 people, half of them voters, dead in poll-related incidents.

The victims included five regular soldiers who were attacked by anti-government militants in the island's south and a policeman killed while guarding a polling booth, the spokesman said. He said polling day violence boosted the death toll since Sunday to at least 65 in the bloodiest election in Sri Lanka since independence from Britain in 1948.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva said he lost two of his senior officials in the violence. "We had to face unprecedented problems. There were road blocks and attacks against voters and election staff," he said.

Officials blamed violence in the south of the island, where the majority Sinhalese community live, on the Sinhalese militant group the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) which had vowed to disrupt balloting. The group was successful at least in one southern area, one of their strongholds, in preventing officials from reaching 49 polling stations where an estimated 160,000 people were eligible to vote. It was not immediately clear if a new ballot would be ordered in the area.

In the Tamil-dominated Northern Province, an Indian soldier and four Tamil guerrillas were killed during the poll Monday.

Nearly 50,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the island's Northern and Easten Provinces provided security for the election, but initial results showed a low turnout from the minority Tamil and Muslim communities. The dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had asked voters to boycott the election as the three candidates were from the Sinhalese community. [passage omitted]

Jayewardene Announces 'Indefinite Curfew'
BK2012082888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 20 (AFP)—Outgoing President Junius Jayewardene announced an indefinite curfew after final results of presidential elections are known later Tuesday [20 December] and appealed for peace from all sides.

The 82-year-old leader called for calm and said he wished peace and prosperity to his strife-torn island republic, in what was seen as his final address to the nation before quitting the office he has held since 1978.

Unofficial results showed that Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was headed for a narrow victory in Monday's ballot conducted amid unprecedented violence which left 30 people dead and at least 32 wounded.